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**HOUSE BILL 1225**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2021 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Stonier, Bateman, Lekanoff, J. Johnson, Davis, Cody, Santos, Thai, Ortiz-Self, Ormsby, Valdez, Riccelli, and Tharinger

Read first time 01/15/21. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to supporting school-based health centers; adding  
2 a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

5 (a) Research shows that school-based health centers provide a  
6 crucial link between health and education, improving outcomes for  
7 students in both areas;

8 (b) Health and academic disparities are increasing during the  
9 COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for students of color;

10 (c) School-based health centers advance equity by providing  
11 health care access and support at schools;

12 (d) Local control and decision making for school-based health  
13 centers is important; and

14 (e) In 2016, the legislature created the Washington integrated  
15 student supports protocol as a strategy to close educational  
16 opportunity gaps through school-based coordination of academic and  
17 nonacademic supports for students.

18 (2) Therefore, the legislature intends to create a school-based  
19 health center program office within the department of health to award  
20 grants and coordinate with other agencies and entities to provide

1 support, training, and technical assistance to school-based health  
2 centers.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) The school-based health center program office is established  
6 within the department.

7 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
8 specific purpose, the school-based health center program office  
9 shall:

10 (a) Award grant funding to school-based health centers. The  
11 department may grant funding for the following purposes:

12 (i) Planning a school-based health center;

13 (ii) Start-up costs associated with setting up a school-based  
14 health center; and

15 (iii) Ongoing costs of operating a school-based health center;

16 (b) Monitor and evaluate school-based health centers that receive  
17 grant funding from the program office;

18 (c) Partner with a statewide nonprofit organization to provide  
19 training and technical assistance to school-based health centers; and

20 (d) Coordinate with the statewide nonprofit organization  
21 providing training and technical assistance, educational service  
22 districts, the health care authority, hosting school districts, and  
23 the office of the insurance commissioner, to provide support to  
24 school-based health centers.

25 (3) For purposes of this section, a "school-based health center"  
26 means a collaboration between the community, the school, and a  
27 sponsoring agency that operates the school-based health center, which  
28 is a student-focused health center located in or adjacent to a school  
29 that provides integrated medical, behavioral health, and other health  
30 care services such as dental care.

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