May 14, 2025

Hayley Sanon
Acting Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education
OESEGrants@ed.gov
400 Maryland Ave., SW
Washington, D.C., 20202

## RE: Request for Reconsideration of Non-Continuation - Federal Grant Award \$184H220250

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Sanon:

We, the thirteen component school districts served by the Douglas Education Service District in Oregon, respectfully urge the U.S. Department of Education to reconsider its decision to discontinue federal School-Based Mental Health (SBMH) grant funding beyond the current budget period.

Since receiving grant funding in 2023, the SBMH Program has become a cornerstone of support for all students' mental, emotional, and behavioral health across our rural schools. In a region where access to timely mental health services is often limited or unavailable, this grant has allowed us to directly address students' needs by expanding access to clinical mental health counseling interns in our schools. As a result, 7,000 hours have been invested annually to help improve the emotional well-being of students. Last year alone, 887 students in grades K-12 were provided 8,776 individual interactions of support.

Ending this program would interrupt services, potentially leaving students without needed support and disrupting the progress we've made. Sustaining these services is essential to protecting the health, safety, and future success of the youth in our communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yoncalla SD #32

Sincerely,

## **Douglas County Public School District Superintendents**

