Students for a Healthy Oregon is a coalition of Oregon high school students that have come together to improve the mental health and well-being of students. Across the state students, teachers and families are struggling to identify and adequately address mental health needs in a timely and effective manner. Our 2019 legislative priorities begin to address this need.

**Equalize physical and mental health (HB 2191)**

**Background:** Oregon Law allows individual schools to determine which absences, other than illness or family emergency, should be excused. Some schools do not recognize mental illness as an excused absence – requiring the student, or their parent, to either claim they have a cold or not be able to make-up tests and homework. By not explicitly recognizing mental health as an excused absence we are adding further stigma to a common and treatable condition.

**Solution:**
For an absence to be excused Oregon Law should recognize both physical and mental illness.

**Students for a Healthy Oregon is lead by:**

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