



Chair Salinas, Vice-chairs Hayden and Nosse, Members of the House Health Care Committee,

My name is Michaela Grillo and I am a member of AFSCME Council 75. I am a clinical social worker who has worked in both community mental health at a local non-profit agency, as well as a large university hospital. I am also a member of SASS, the Solidarity Alliance of Social Services, which is a community advocacy group working to improve behavioral health in Oregon.

Oregon ranks dead last or near the bottom in mental health outcomes. Poor mental health reduces physical health, safety, and educational outcomes at the individual, family, and community levels. It also increases healthcare and other institutional costs in the long run. In order for us to make long-term health improvements we need to invest in our community's behavioral healthcare. We should be making sure we are using all resources available to improve care and access.

We also know that there are large health systems which receive the benefits of non-profit status with very low standards for how much community benefits or what kind of community benefits they provide. As a health professional, I can assure you that community benefits are crucial to ensuring that our patients have the wraparound services they need to support a full physical and mental health recovery. Without adequate community resources, patients and clients get trapped in cycles of crisis, relapse and treatment that increase healthcare costs and crowds our overloaded healthcare system.

I believe House Bill 3076 would work to fix that broken dynamic and looks at standards within our community benefit for non-profit status. With an increased investment of community benefits dollars and resources into community mental health we can begin to increase our impact and better the outcomes. Oregon AFSCME stands in support of this bill and the efforts to increase the impact and level of community care.

Thank you for your supporting the health and well-being of our community by voting yes for House Bill 3076.