



February 3, 2020

RE: Letter of Support for SB 1552

Dear Chair Roblan and Members of the Senate Committee on Mental Health,

Community Counseling Solutions (CCS) proudly supports SB 1552 celebrating the model of bringing comprehensive health care services to communities, otherwise known as Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHC). CCS was selected to launch the CCBHC demonstration project in John Day, Oregon that allowed our organization to expand services, along with helping move toward curbing the opioid epidemic, reducing suicide, and bringing more Oregonians with untreated mental illness or addiction into care—all while improving collaboration with primary care partners.

Behavioral health providers have seen steadily decreasing resources while at the same time experiencing a growing need for services to high-risk clients within our communities. For the first time in more than a generation, our country has a common definition for a certified comprehensive behavioral health center and reimbursement based on the true anticipated costs of care. SB 1552 has the potential for fundamentally transforming the way organizations deliver care.

CCBHC model was shown to be promising in the delivery comprehensive health care services to vulnerable populations in Grant County and across Oregon, allowing an enhanced federal match rate for the services provided, generating a four-to-one return on the investment. Passing SB 1552 will give Oregon the opportunity to continue leveraging additional federal financial support and sustain the valuable infrastructure built over the past two years.

Sincerely,

*Kimberly Lindsay*

Kimberly Lindsay  
Executive Director  
Community Counseling Solutions  
Serving Grant, Morrow, Wheeler and Gilliam Counties

[www.communitycounselingsolutions.org](http://www.communitycounselingsolutions.org)

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