

February 4, 2020

Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee on Behavioral Health  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: House Bill 4082 – Behavioral Health Road Map Commission**

Chair Greenlick and members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health:

On behalf of Oregon's 62 community hospitals and the patients they serve, the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS) supports HB 4082. We would like to recommend that at least one member of the commission be a hospital representative, as they represent a broad range of interests in the prevention and treatment of behavioral health disorders and in the receipt of behavioral health treatment in the state.

Apprise Health Insights (OAHHS' data subsidiary) performed an in-depth review of behavioral health emergency department discharge claims in CY 2017 to determine the magnitude of the behavioral health crisis in Oregon. Substance use makes up 75% of the behavioral health emergency department visits compared to mental health at 25% (between 2015-2017). Many Oregonians struggle with mental health challenges and substance use disorders every day. Demands for behavioral health services have been growing at an alarming rate, both in Oregon and nationally. State and federal lawmakers, as well as policy makers, community and social service agencies and health care providers are working together to define the problem and to implement solutions to mitigate it.<sup>1</sup>

We appreciate the laudable intent of this legislation continuing to transform Oregon's behavioral health system. OAHHS supports strengthening behavioral health services at the state and local level. OAHHS supports the development of this commission in hopes that it will further the work of the Governor's Behavioral Health Advisory Council and the other stakeholder groups that have joined together to develop solutions.

Thank you,



Andi Easton  
Vice President of Government Affairs  
Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems

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<sup>1</sup> [Behavior Health from Emergency Discharge Data in Oregon, Apprise Health Insights CY 2017.](#)