

As a mental health care professional I see everyday how our healthcare system is broken. Oregonians come to me in a time of crisis covered by OHP. They are often in a delicate place when they find work and lose their insurance. It can take months for them to get a new therapist on their new insurance if they are covered at all. Then there are those who make just a little too much to qualify for OHP but not enough to afford the high cost of mental healthcare. The Community Mental Health Agencies have caseloads in the nineties. The system is overwhelmed, understaffed, and underpaid. This bill is very necessary as a first step towards correcting this crisis. Thank you.