

Good Morning Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I was unable to attend this meeting due to work, but felt it important to weigh in on this topic. I strongly support this bill and the renewed focus on training teams meant to intervene in a crisis of mental health, substance abuse, homelessness, and other scenarios that have traditionally been handled by armed police officers. We know from experience that these programs work and that they both reduce government costs and loss of life.

I am hopeful that this opt in program will encourage many cities and states across this union to consider this approach. By providing trained professionals to any given situation, we can make our state and communities safer for both the residents and the police.