

Chair & Committee,

My name is Melissa Jones and I live in Medford. I am 2.75 years abstinent from drugs & alcohol and run a Mobile Harm Reduction unit and syringe exchange service down here in Southern Oregon called the Stabbin Wagon. I also do outreach at Hawthorne Park Mutual Aid (daily lunch) as well as volunteer at Judi's Midnight Diner winter warming station. I am in full support of SB2417. Our local community needs CAHOOTS model crisis intervention badly. I do a lot of outreach on the ground in the community and see the law enforcement continually make matters so much worse for folks in crisis. It creates more trauma by constantly fining arresting, and criminalizing people that need the services that police are: 1) Not at all empathetic/sympathetic toward. 2) Not educated or trained to deal with 3) Calling for a new jail that will cost \$160M and the only way to justify this is by arresting more people. This is a complete and total conflict of interest. Cops to not belong in the mental health and/or drug dependency recovery chain. People experiencing homelessness, drug dependency and/or mental health crisis are NOT criminals. These folks need services with educated and experienced experts in deescalation and non punitive approach. It is both morally and fiscally responsible to send CAHOOTS and not COPS!