

February 23, 2021

House Behavioral Health Committee  
900 Court St. NE, Rm. 453  
State Capitol  
Salem, OR, 97301

Dear Members of the House Behavioral Health Committee,

I urge you to vote YES on HB 2417, a bill that will provide \$10 million in state matching grants to support the development of mobile crisis intervention programs, based on the CAHOOTS model pioneered in Eugene. Mobile crisis intervention teams, as defined in the bill, provide trauma-informed de-escalation and harm reduction techniques to more appropriately respond to the related crises of untreated mental illness, substance abuse and homelessness that impact all of us here in the Rogue Valley.

Experience has shown that law enforcement does not always provide the most appropriate first response for every situation or individual in crisis. This bill would fund --and thus incentivize-- our cities and counties to implement a proven-effective and less costly alternative.

I have had direct experiences in situations where a mobile crisis team would have been more appropriate, humane, and effective than calling the police. This has come up more than once during my volunteer work with the homeless population on the street. It has come up more than once during my work as a RN at La Clinica when an out-of-control aggressive patient has necessitated calling for assistance in the clinic. And as a parent of a mentally disabled adult I've talked with many other parents of mentally challenged or addicted children. Fortunately my son's brain disfunction never causes him to act out in a violent manner but I know those who do.

Thank you for your attention and leadership on this important bill.  
Sincerely,

Hannah Horn  
1109 Oak St.  
Ashland OR 97520

Retired RN  
member, Ashland United Church of Christ, Peace and Justice Committee  
member, NAMI