



OREGON PSYCHIATRIC
PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATION

Date: February 2, 2022

To: The Honorable Chair Rachel Prusak
The Honorable Vice-Chair Cedric Hayden
The Honorable Vice-Chair Andrea Salinas
Members of the House Health Care Committee

From: Maya López, MD, Co-Chair
Daniel Nicoli, DO, Co-Chair
Oregon Psychiatric Physicians Association

RE: Statement of support for HB 4083 Access to Primary and Behavioral Health Care

Chair Prusak, Vice Chairs and members of the committee:

The Oregon Psychiatric Physicians Association (OPPA), a district branch of the American Psychiatric Association, was established in 1966. OPPA serves as the organization for Oregon's medical doctors specializing in psychiatry who work together to ensure effective treatment for persons with mental illness, including substance use disorders, and compassion for them and their families. We would like to submit this statement today in support of HB 3108, which promotes access to primary and behavioral health care.

HB 4083 requires state-regulated health insurance policies, health care service contracts and the state medical assistance program to provide reimbursement for at least three primary care visits annually. Key provisions also allow a behavioral health visit and primary care provider visits on the same day with only one co-payment and no prior authorization when referring a patient to a behavioral health provider.

Providing mental health consultation in primary care clinics, is in part, the future. Patients with mental health concerns frequently first present to their primary care

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provider and in the past, primary care providers had no other option but to refer patients to separate mental health clinics, which generally have long waitlists. This bill ensures that primary care clinics are reimbursed for the mental health services that they provide, and the patient isn't stuck with an additional co-pay for a same day behavioral health visit. It also does not allow care to be delayed with prior authorizations, which would negate a large benefit of the model. Patients benefit when they can walk down a hall and see a behavioral health provider during or directly after their primary care appointment. Behavioral health providers are an important part of the patient-centered primary care team, and this bill supports their integration.

OPPA urges passage of this bill.