



**February 3, 2022**

**Re: Testimony in support of HB 4098 with expected amendments**

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health:

Thank you for hearing House Bill 4098, including contemplating the forthcoming amendments which will stand up the decision-making body charged with allocating national opioid litigation settlement dollars. We appreciate the partnership with the Department of Justice, the Governor's office, and fellow local governments in reaching consensus on this bill. Additionally, noting that the base bill pertains to the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission, we are glad that the Commission has a seat at the table set up by the bill as amended to help ensure that the settlement dollars distributed in a manner supported by the Commission's strategic plan.

As you may know, Washington County has been an active litigant in the national opioid settlement. As a result, Washington County and other litigating jurisdictions will share, through direct allocation, 55% of the total settlement dollars coming to Oregon. The settlement agreement provides for a commission to allocate the remaining 45%. This standalone bill will stand up this commission which will direct allocation of this 45%.

As one example of how Washington County's direct settlement dollars will be used is that Washington County's Behavioral Health Division is working on an exciting new project to improve access to substance use disorder care for adults in our community. The Center for Addictions Triage and Treatment (CATT) is a project currently in development.

We believe that people can recover from problem substance use. Our plan is to build a comprehensive and coordinated substance use treatment center that is open 24/7. The CATT will be a place where adults struggling with problem substance use can get the services and supports necessary to live a healthier life. The CATT will offer rapid access to care and culturally responsive treatment. It will provide treatment proven to work. Individuals will enter the CATT voluntarily.

Washington County Health and Human Services intentionally partners with our community-based organizations, our cities, and other local partners. With the statewide distribution of settlement dollars that HB 4098 with expected amendments will allow for, Oregon communities will bring much-needed treatment and recovery services to our state.

We urge your support of HB 4098 with amendments.

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