



Taking action for basic human needs.



To: House Behavioral Health
From: Human Services Coalition of Oregon
Date: February 11, 2022
Re: Support HB 4098

Chair Nosse and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Human Services Coalition of Oregon, I respectfully request your support for HB 4098.

For over three decades, HSCO has convened like-minded advocates in an effort to fight for the policy development and resources necessary to support vulnerable Oregonians. HSCO is made up of over 100 individuals and organizations that work together to develop effective tax, education, health care, housing, human services, and economic development policy that together make Oregon a better place for all its citizens.

In early 2020, the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission (ADPC) submitted a Strategic Plan for Substance Use Services to the Governor and to the Legislature. The plan was approved by both, and it is now known as Oregon's Strategic Plan. HB 4098 places into statute items from Goal 1 of Oregon's Strategic Plan, which is the section of the plan that contains the strategies and activities to build a coordinated statewide system of substance use service.

The specific items from Goal 1 that are found in HB 4098 are:

- A requirement that ADPC's partner state agencies meet periodically with ADPC and provide information about the strategies and activities assigned to them in the Strategic Plan, and
- A requirement that ADPC produce an annual report describing the progress we are making as a state on implementing the Strategic Plan.

HB 4098 solidifies ADPC as the convening entity that brings the state agencies responsible for administering substance use services together to work on improving those services for all Oregonians. This aligns well with HSCO's values of creating access to programs and services that provide a positive benefit to the lives of vulnerable Oregonians; increasing culturally competent services; and increasing transparency, efficiency, and accountability in the administration and provision of programs and services.

Data was released recently regarding Oregon's substance use rates, and this data painted a particularly grim picture for Oregon. It showed us that our state has a very high substance use disorder rate coupled with a very low access to treatment rate. That is not the place we want to be, but the good news is we have a plan for how to change that picture—it is Oregon's Strategic

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Plan. Oregonians are depending on us to do better about substance use services, and HB 4098 is one step we can take today that will help us achieve that goal.

Thank you for your time and your support for HB 4098.

Sincerely,
HSCO CO-Chairs

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