

# House Bill 3274

## Oregon Behavioral Health Institute (OBHI)

SOU Testimony participants:

**Dr. Neil Woolf – Executive Vice President**  
Enrollment Management and Student Affairs

**Dr. Dan DeNeui – Associate Provost**  
and Director of Graduate Studies

**Dr. Kelly Szott – Associate Professor**  
Sociology and Human Service

# A Generation At Risk

- Severe shortage of behavioral health practitioners
- US Surgeon General advisory on youth mental health crisis
- February 2023: CDC [Youth Risk Behavior Study](#)
  - 42% of high school students report ...
  - 57% of female students...
  - Nearly 1 in 3 female high school students ...

# The Critical Need for Behavioral Health Practitioners

## Student Withdrawals From Higher Education

Late-No Refund

Combined		
Reason	Count	Percent
Mental Health	37	25.87
Family Issues	30	20.98
Health Issues	19	13.29
Work Obligations	17	11.89
Fit	16	11.19
Other	8	5.59
Unknown	8	5.59
Financial	5	3.50
Covid-19	3	2.10

**TOTAL** 143

SOURCE  
Student Withdrawal Survey, SOU  
Dean of Students, Fall 2022

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## The Proposal:

- Double the graduates
- Micro-credentials
- Debt-free pathways
- Externally-facing counseling
- Research

# Example: SOU Student Health & Wellness Center Pathway



# Thank You!

- You can create a game-changer for the Southern Oregon region
- Allow us to leverage external resources to truly move the needle on behavioral healthcare
- Questions?