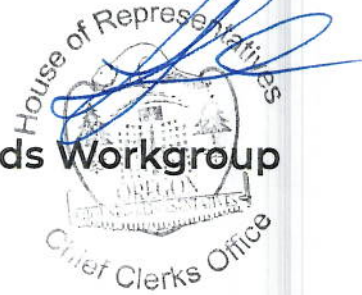


From the desk of Representative Laura Sanchez

**YES on HB 2235 A**

**Behavioral Health Caseloads and Workloads Workgroup**



In 2017, Oregon AFSCME and the Solidarity Alliance of Social Services published our United We Heal report, which highlighted many of the issues that were all contributing to workforce burnout and turnover in the Behavioral Health and Human Services sectors in Oregon. Since that time there have been other reports from [Multnomah County in 2018](#), [September 2020 Task Force Report](#), an [audit in 2020 from the Secretary of State](#) and in [February of 2023 from OHSU](#).

In addition to low wages, every single report has pointed to high caseloads and administrative burden as contributing factors to the high levels of burnout and turnover in Oregon's community behavioral health services. We've taken steps in addressing wages and workforce development needs and we now need to look at caseloads policies and administrative burden to better support our workforce in providing accessible quality of care.

HB 2235A establishes a workgroup made up of frontline certified and licensed behavioral health practitioners and administrators to reduce burnout and increase recruitment and retention of staff and access to quality care by making recommendations by January 2025 on **reducing the workloads including caseload guidelines or ratios and administrative burden with consideration for:**

- o Staffing needs to meet the community's behavioral health care needs
- o Access to the appropriate level of care
- o Delivery of team-based care
- o Transitions to value-based payment methodologies
- o Resources need to implement the recommendations.
- o Needs for diversifying the workforce to meet community & individual needs

These recommendations will help OHA and the Legislature provide for clearer budgeting processes and understanding where and how we need to invest in community behavioral health services in Oregon.

**We urge your YES Vote on HB 2235A**



Submitted by Eva Rippeteau, Political Coordinator, Oregon AFSCME [erippeteau@oregonafscme.org](mailto:erippeteau@oregonafscme.org)