

**February 6, 2023**

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Letter of Support for House Bill 2757**

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice Chair Goodwin, and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer Health Share's support for House Bill 2757. Health Share is a Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) serving over 440,000 Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties, including 430,000 members with Behavioral Health coverage. We proudly endorse the expansion and funding for a coordinated crisis system – including the 988 suicide prevention and behavioral health crisis hotline.

HB 2757 will support Oregon's behavioral health delivery system at a critical juncture. OHP members continue to experience severe access to behavioral health care challenges across the state. OHSU's Behavioral Health Workforce Report to OHA and State Legislature in 2022 reported that "people needing behavioral health services had difficulties finding available providers and being seen in a timely manner, and wait times were exacerbated when the need for services required specialization, including bilingual and culturally specific training."<sup>1</sup> At Health Share, we have invested extensively in our community's behavioral health infrastructure, but recognize that much more needs to be done in a coordinated, state-wide manner to meet the needs of our most vulnerable.

Investing in the expansion of a coordinated crisis system is a step in the right direction to support Oregonians in their greatest times of need, and advance health equity. This bill will provide critical, immediate, and free support to callers – no matter the time or place. We are honored to support the expansion and funding of a coordinated crisis system through HB 2757.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to me, Jeremy Koehler, at [koehlerj@healthshareoregon.org](mailto:koehlerj@healthshareoregon.org).

Sincerely,

Jeremy Koehler  
Director, Integrated Services  
Health Share of Oregon

<sup>1</sup> Oregon Health and Science University, Behavioral Health Workforce Report to the Oregon Health Authority and State Legislature, 2022.