



March 1, 2023

TO: Chair Patterson, members of the Senate Committee on Health Care
FROM: Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager, Jessica Pratt
RE: SB 432

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties, representing Oregon's county governments, I am writing to you today to affirm the value of consumer leadership in behavioral health policy development and the need for state investment.

Local public health authorities and their community mental health programs are long time advocates and partners for consumer leadership and peer workforce development, working with state and private partners, when funding is available, to increase peer-delivered service capacity across Oregon.

Consumers of public behavioral health services bring unique knowledge and perspective on the opportunities for improving state and local systems of care and are valued members of local behavioral health advisory committees.

Thank you for the public hearing on SB 432 and we urge your support for consumer leadership in Oregon's public behavioral health system.

Jessica Pratt
Legislative Affairs Manager
Association of Oregon Counties