



**Testimony in opposition to HB 2976A**

**Establishing Oregon Spirits Board as semi-independent state agency**

April 24, 2023

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP), representing CMHPs statewide who manage local behavioral health systems of care, and provide mental health and substance use disorder services for their communities, I am writing to express our opposition to HB 2976A.

In our reading of the bill, the language in Section 7 (1) and (2) suggests that the existing surcharge imposed on liquor would fund the Oregon Spirits Board, eliminating a State General Fund stream that could be used for much needed alcohol misuse prevention and intervention services.

CMHPs serve community members whose lives are in disarray because of alcohol addiction, many of whom are involved in the justice system and/or houseless. CMHPs and other public behavioral health system partners rely on State General Funds to provide services and supports, including housing and jail diversion, to help individuals address and recover from alcohol addiction. We need more, not less, funding to help our community members.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 2976A.

Sincerely,

Cherryl L. Ramirez  
Executive Director, AOCMHP