



To: House Committee on Revenue
From: Oregon Council for Behavioral Health (OCBH)
Re: Support for HB 2575

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

Oregon Council for Behavioral Health (OCBH) is the statewide association of primarily nonprofit providers that deliver treatment for substance use disorders and mental illness. Our member organizations serve individuals living with the chronic diseases of addiction and mental illness. It is likely the behavioral health providers in your districts are members of OCBH.

We are here today to share our support and enthusiasm for HB 2575, which is necessary to implement 988 as a behavioral health crisis hotline.

Our members provide the full continuum of behavioral healthcare from prevention to outpatient and residential treatment. Having an operational, effective, and fully staffed crisis line is a necessary part of this continuum.

Over the years, Oregon has undertaken many efforts to meet the needs of those experiencing behavioral health crises. These efforts rely on upstream interventions which ensure people have access to behavioral health supports at the time they're ready to seek care. This is the most humane and cost-effective way to deliver services. Early intervention preserves the desperately needed capacity at more acute settings like residential care, hospitals, and correctional facilities.

A sustainable source of funding is necessary to ensuring continued access to this life-saving intervention.

Thank you for your work as a committee to better understand this continuum and for the work you've done to support investments which improve access to behavioral health.

We urge your support of HB 2575.

Heather Jefferis, MA
Executive Director, Oregon Council for Behavioral Health