



February 5, 2024

Dear Chair Kropf and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 4001 to establish the Task Force on Specialty Courts.

Emergence Addiction and Behavioral Therapies provides substance use, mental health, disordered gambling, and interpersonal violence treatment in Lane and Linn Counties. For 30 years, Emergence has served as the contracted treatment provider for the Lane County Adult (Drug) Treatment Court since it was established in 1994. We also provide treatment to participants in the Lane County Veterans Treatment Court and Lane County Mental Health Court.

The proposed task force has great potential to further improve the effectiveness of specialty courts in Oregon. The Oregon Specialty Court Standards were last updated in 2018, and we are due to review our state practices and revise with an eye toward the most current research—including whether how we define "high need" is identifying the participants most appropriate for our services. All Rise—the organization formerly known as the National Association of Drug Court Professionals or NADCP—has recently updated the best practice standards for effective treatment courts, so HB 4001 would convene the task force at just the right time. You can learn more about the best practices of treatment courts here: <https://allrise.org/publications/standards/>.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit feedback for your consideration. I strongly encourage you to vote yes on HB 4001, and I look forward to working with you to build a safer and healthier Oregon.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Wig
Executive Director
Emergence Addiction & Behavioral Therapies