



Testimony in support of HB 4011

Behavioral Health Providers and Harm Reduction Clearinghouse

February 6, 2024

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP), representing CMHPs statewide who manage the local behavioral health safety net in their communities and provide a wide array of services for people who are Medicaid eligible, uninsured or underinsured, I am expressing our strong support for HB 4011, Section 29, to continue the agreement between the Oregon Health Authority and the Mental Health and Addiction Certification Board of Oregon, which will extend the waiver of registration and testing fees for our non-licensed public behavioral health system workforce.

Community mental health programs employ and contract with peer support specialists and non-licensed qualified mental health associates and qualified mental health professionals to provide essential services for the public behavioral health system. We urgently need this certified workforce to support people with substance use disorders who are involved in the criminal justice system and to provide mobile crisis and crisis stabilization services, to name a couple of areas with extreme workforce shortages.

AOCMHP also supports the Harm Reduction Clearinghouse, Section 31, as our communities are in constant need of opioid overdose reversal medications that will greatly help prevent overdose deaths.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Sections 29 and 31 of HB 4011.

Sincerely,

Cherryl L. Ramirez
Executive Director, AOCMHP