

Submitter: michael kilger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB4139

We are in a crisis of need for substance abuse assistance and psychiatric help, the lack of which is driving much of the homelessness, addiction, and crime in Oregon. We need to remove any barriers to help those in need and return our communities and challenged citizens to safe, desirable and productive places to live and enjoy life. One of the barriers is the need for a certificate of need for health facilities. We need Bill 4139 enacted to increase the overall availability of facilities to serve substance abuse and psychiatric help, as well as, geographic diversity across the State. This would also allow free market capital, ideas and innovators to help meet the need where and when it is most needed. A Certificate of Need increases costs because it increases the barriers to start-ups and innovators while at the same time protects existing facilities from competition. This stifles customer needs and increases costs for individuals, insurance companies and State funded healthcare. CON consolidates power for health decisions with the large players in the industry and State regulators which may have goals or an agenda that is contrary to quality care, low cost, and facility availability and location.