



**Testimony in support of HB 4023 with -3 or -6 amendment
Siting behavioral health residential treatment facilities**

March 5, 2024

Dear Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Knopp, and 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, including residential treatment and supported housing, I am expressing our strong support for HB 4023 with the -3 or -6 amendment, to make it easier for residential facilities to be sited for people with behavioral health treatment needs.

Community mental health programs are often responsible for siting residential facilities and supported housing complexes, and it can be a difficult and lengthy process, sometimes resulting in no site and having to start the process all over again. We are extremely thankful to the Legislature for the investments in facilities and other infrastructure development for our communities over the last few years. In order to use these investments, we must have the ability to site funded projects to enable us to build out community-based behavioral health system capacity. The siting allowance is a critical step toward serving more people in their own communities and avoiding higher cost institutional and hospital care.

Please support HB 4023 with the -3 or -6 amendment as a step closer to fulfilling the vision of deinstitutionalization and allowing people with behavioral health residential treatment needs to recover in their own communities whenever possible.

Sincerely,

Cherryl L. Ramirez
Executive Director, AOCMHP