



Chair Lieber
Vice-Chair Knopp
Members of the Senate Committee on Rules

Public Hearing on March 5, 2024

**Testimony in Support of HB 4023 if amended with A3 amendment.
Siting behavioral health housing-adding residential zones**

Dear Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp and members of the Senate Rules Committee:

GOBHI (Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc) supports HB 4023 if amended with the A3 amendment.

GOBHI is a behavioral health and social services network serving in 12 rural/frontier counties with the goal of empowering individuals and communities to achieve better health. GOBHI was established in 1994 and is a non-profit organization.

Unfortunately, GOBHI has seen first-hand how local governments have blocked housing projects for behavioral health because of pressure from residents. Treating behavioral housing differently than other types of housing in our land use system is illegal under the Federal Fair Housing Act.

This legislature has made historic investments in behavioral health housing because you understand the critical need to create community placements. Providing this type of housing is the only way to solve the bottleneck at the Oregon State Hospital. HB 4023 amended with the A3 amendment is important to make sure we can actually site this type of housing.

Please support HB 4023 with the A3 amendment. GOBHI could also support the A6 which puts a sunset of 2027 on the bill.

Submitted by Anna Braun, representing GOBHI Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc