



VANESSA CORNWALL

Intergovernmental Relations Officer
Vanessa.cornwall@lanecountyor.gov

DATE: February 11, 2025
TO: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
FROM: Vanessa Cornwall, Lane County Intergovernmental Relations Officer
RE: HB 2041, Relating to Mental Health Services Parity

Dear Chair Nosse, Co-Chairs Javadi and Nelson, and Members of the Committee:

Lane County strongly supports HB 2041, requiring insurers to reimburse mental health professionals at the same rate as physicians. This legislation addresses the ongoing disparities in mental health care accessibility and ensures that individuals receive the support they need without necessary barriers.

Federal law requires that reimbursements for mental health services be equal to those for medical/surgical services. Additionally, Oregon HB 3046 in 2021 reinforced this requirement by clarifying how insurers comply especially around limits on behavioral health benefits.

Lane County advocates for improved behavioral health coverage to sustain our and expand our behavioral health services, by addressing disparity in reimbursements disincentivizing providers from offering these services, which exacerbates the ongoing mental health crisis in our community.

Lane County respectfully requests the committee support HB 2041 to strengthen Oregon's mental health care system.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY VANESSA CORNWALL, LANE COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS OFFICER