

March 5, 2025

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice Chair Javadi and Nelson, and Committee Members:

RE: HB 2224-3 – County Representation on Local CCO Boards and Improved Financial Stability for Critical Services

Thank you for the opportunity to share Multnomah County's support for HB 2224, which will include a county designated local health official, local public health administrator or community mental health program director on the local CCO board. While not all Counties operate Additionally, HB 2224 allows local health departments and CCOs to negotiate payment for services provided by local health departments including prevention and health promotion services, maternal and child health services such as prenatal outreach and care, plus child health and family planning services to women and children who become eligible for poverty level medical assistance program benefits.

County Boards of Commissioners are the Local Mental Health Authority and the Local Public Health Authority, with the statutory obligation to plan and administer the behavioral health and public health safety net for the whole community. Counties also connect the courts, law enforcement, homelessness and disabilities services, and other local partners to ensure a complete system of care that fosters public safety and maximizes wellbeing.

Additionally, by allowing local health departments and CCOs to negotiate payment for services, Multnomah County's public health department could expand maternal health, nutrition and breastfeeding outreach at outlying partner locations; expand services that are more culturally inclusive and responsive, including supporting the linguistic needs of folks we currently serve; and diversify our home visiting workforce to be more culturally and linguistically representative of the communities being served.

We appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue, and request your support.

Sincerely,

Lizzy Atwood Wills
State Coordinator
Multnomah County Government Relations

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