



Date: Mar 12, 2025

Co-Chairs Prozanski and Kropf, Members of the Committee,

OCBH is the statewide association of providers that serve individuals living with the chronic diseases of addiction and mental illness. It is likely the behavioral health providers in your districts are members of OCBH.

We write to you in support of HB 3321 and the -1 amendment, which seeks to codify federal best practice prevention strategies in Oregon's statutes and asks the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission to assess our existing prevention work and develop a primary prevention strategy.

OCBH's providers deliver behavioral healthcare that ranges from prevention to the highest acuity residential settings. The growing need for our most acute behavioral health services is outpacing our providers' capacity to provide these services. The only long term strategy for bending this growth is to invest in prevention strategies.

We are grateful to the leadership of Representatives Walters and Sanchez for beginning this process by assessing where we are today. When we have a better sense of the prevention strategies being offered in our state, we can determine how best to build and expand that work. The Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission is the right entity to design this strategy.

We look forward to working with the sponsors, and the ADPC, on the assessment of current prevention and on future efforts to establish a prevention plan in Oregon. The unmet demand for withdrawal management services and the housing crisis we see today are the direct result of our failure to invest in these services in the past. We look forward to taking the first steps to remedy this.

We urge your support of HB 3321.

Heather Jefferis
Executive Director
Oregon Council for Behavioral Health