

Submitter: Rachel Freed
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2056

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 2056, which requires the Oregon Health Authority to study the cost of community mental health programs. While I recognize the importance of understanding the financial aspects of mental health services, I believe that this bill may not adequately address the immediate needs of our community and may divert valuable resources from critical services.

First and foremost, the mental health crisis in our state is urgent, and we cannot afford to delay action while studies are conducted. Many individuals and families are currently struggling to access necessary services, and the focus should be on providing immediate support rather than analyzing costs. Instead of investing time and resources into a study, we should prioritize funding for existing programs that are already showing positive outcomes in our communities.

Additionally, while understanding costs is important, it is equally crucial to consider the qualitative aspects of mental health services. This study may lead to an overemphasis on cost-cutting measures rather than enhancing the quality and accessibility of care. Mental health support is not a one-size-fits-all service; it requires a nuanced approach that addresses the diverse needs of individuals. A focus solely on costs could inadvertently undermine the effectiveness of programs that provide vital support.

Furthermore, the process of studying costs can often be lengthy and bureaucratic. In the meantime, individuals in need of mental health support may continue to face barriers to accessing care. We should be focusing on solutions that provide immediate relief and support for those in crisis rather than waiting for the results of a study.

In conclusion, I urge you to oppose HB 2056 and instead advocate for direct investment in community mental health programs that provide immediate support to those in need. It is essential that we prioritize timely access to quality care for individuals struggling with mental health issues.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I hope you will take them into account as you deliberate on the implications of HB 2056.