



## HB 2056 – Fund the Gap

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Nelson and Javadi, Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Association of Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP), I am writing to urge your support of HB 2056 with the -1 amendment, to fund the resource gap identified in the first report of the cost study required by HB 4092 (2024), which analyzed three critical service areas: Crisis, Aid & Assist and Civil Commitment. The purpose of the cost study was to analyze the true cost of much required CMHP services. The programs outlined in HB 2056 are services for mandated populations - those who are involved in the legal system, and for those experiencing behavioral health crises. Lack of services for these individuals will result in incarceration, institutionalization, or even loss of life. Civil commitment and Aid & Assist services are also not eligible for Medicaid match, meaning the state is responsible for their funding.

The Oregon Health Authority contracted with the actuarial firm, Optumas, to ensure a neutral, thoroughly researched, and comprehensive cost analysis. Optumas surveyed CMHPs on the services required and the workforce and other resources needed to provide these services, and the current funding provided. The actuary was able to identify funding gaps based on the data provided by CMHPs and extracted from MOTS and MMIS, OHA data management systems. The full cost study report has been submitted as an exhibit to OLIS.

We fully recognize there are limited resources available this session and we acknowledge that \$65M is a significant investment. However, we continue to see increasing numbers of individuals going through the civil commitment process, unable to aid and assist in their own defense, or experiencing behavioral health crises. Without adequate resources, individuals may cycle in and out of crisis, emergency departments, hospitals, and jails, and we are not able to hire the staff we need to do this challenging work. We ask for your yes vote on HB 2056 with the -1 amendment to support community providers statewide who need more resources to provide these critical services for their community members.

Sincerely,

Cherryl L. Ramirez  
Executive Director, AOCMHP