



VANESSA CORNWALL

Intergovernmental Relations Officer
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DATE: March 18, 2025
TO: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Healthcare
FROM: Vanessa Cornwall, Lane County Intergovernmental Relations Officer
RE: HB 2056, Relating to Behavioral Health

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

Lane County supports HB 2056 and the -1 amendment. Like many communities, Lane County depends on robust community mental health programs (CMHPs) to support residents facing behavioral health crises, individuals involved in the criminal justice system who require competency restoration services, and those navigating civil commitment proceedings. However, the current funding structure has long been inadequate to meet the statutory requirements placed on these essential services.

The -1 amendment represents a critical step toward addressing this funding shortfall. By allocating funds to support CMHPs, this amendment helps ensure that counties like ours can provide the care and services required under Oregon law. The Oregon Health Authority's cost study has made it clear: the gap between available resources and actual need is significant. Without additional funding, our ability to deliver life-saving mental health interventions will continue to be severely constrained.

The need for fully funded mental health services is immediate, and any delay in implementation could have devastating consequences for some of our most vulnerable residents. HB 2056 with the -1 amendment is an important step in demonstrating its commitment to our behavioral health infrastructure for the highest needs residents.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY VANESSA CORNWALL, LANE COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS OFFICER