



HB 2202-1 – Tackling administrative burden in statute

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

On behalf of the Association of Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP) and as a member of the Tackling Administrative Burden (TAB) group since 2022, I am writing to express our support for HB 2202-1, which seeks to reduce administrative burden and clarify roles and responsibilities, avoiding duplication and unnecessary processes that get in the way of clinical and humane, person-centered care.

The workgroup, directed by HB 4092 from last session, made progress last year in updating key behavioral health system statutes, ORS 430 and 414, which prescribe CMHP and CCO responsibilities, respectively. Among other revisions, we modernized behavioral health-related terminology, added the nine federal tribes as entities that are allowed to establish and develop community mental health programs and community developmental disabilities programs, and clarified responsibilities involving adult abuse investigations. This is difficult work, and we clearly need another year to complete our final recommendations on statutory, rule and contractual changes.

HB 2202-1 is an important milestone in tackling administrative burden, leading to higher retention of our public behavioral health system workforce. We urge your passage of HB 2202-1 to support these efforts.

Sincerely,

Cherryl L. Ramirez
Executive Director, AOCMHP