



HB 2024-3 – Preserving our number 1 resource: Workforce

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

On behalf of the Association of Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP) I urge you to support HB 2024-3, to help us to recruit and retain our public behavioral health system workforce. While investments from previous sessions were instrumental in avoiding devastating losses and in filling critical positions, we still have a way to go to close the gaps, particularly in crisis and intensive services, and for master's level clinicians.

HB 2024-3 supports providers who serve people with the most acute behavioral health needs through key incentives to help workers remain in the public system, such as tuition assistance, housing stipends, and childcare subsidies. Grants used toward wage increases and differential pay as well as apprenticeship programs to grow our own workforce will greatly contribute to workforce retention and satisfaction.

HB 2024-3 is an investment in public behavioral health system workforce stability, which leads to better outcomes for individuals and their communities. We urge your passage of HB 2024-3 to prioritize the dedicated workers in the public behavioral health system.

Sincerely,

Cherryl L. Ramirez
Executive Director, AOCMHP