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To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
From: Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN)
Re: **IN SUPPORT OF HB 2202 with -1 amendment**
Date: March 24, 2025

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Javadi and Nelson, and other Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

I am writing today on behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) to express support for HB 2202 with the -1 amendment and urge you to pass this important legislation. COIN is a coalition of over 50 local Indivisible groups throughout Oregon that cooperate and amplify their joint efforts to advance important federal and state legislation and engage with elected officials to promote progressive causes for the benefit of all Oregonians.

Oregon experiences too many deaths from overdose and suicide, with mental health issues contributing to high incidence of homelessness. In fact, the state ranks dead last in the U.S. when it comes to our young people (under 18) wrestling with mental illness and their ability to get the vital care they need. This is unacceptable. The first step in changing these outcomes and improving the services provided by our mental health professionals must be a complete assessment of where we need to change, then address what can be done to provide the best care in the most effective way. Oregon passed HB 4092 (2024 session) to get that process started.

HB 4092 called for the creation of a work group formed by stakeholders deeply involved with behavioral health, both providers and consumers. Based on the number of agencies and non-profits participating in the work group, we believe the resulting bill takes advantage of the breadth of knowledge and experience needed to produce the outcomes required by HB 4092. These recommended solutions will address or resolve issues so that Oregon behavioral health system services are streamlined, efficient, and transparent. They will reflect the best current practices, clarify and simplify reporting, and specify responsibilities for accountability. [HB 2202](#) with the -1 amendment is the first round of recommendations that have come from the work group. While the group still has much to do, we support the efforts evident in this bill and consider it a good start toward fulfilling their mission.

We urge you to pass HB 2202 with the -1 amendment.

Respectfully,
Cheryl Conway
COIN Legislation Team