



March 25, 2025

TO: Chair Nosse and members of the House Committee On Behavioral Health & Health Care

FROM: Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager, Jessica Pratt

RE: Support HB 2202-1

Dear Chair Nosse and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties, representing Oregon's county governments, I am writing to ask for your support for HB 2202-1 to implement the preliminary recommendations of the HB 4092 (2024) workgroup which seeks to reduce administrative burden and unnecessary processes that get in the way of good care. HB 2202-1 is a small step forward in the ongoing work of eliminating needless administrative burden on Oregon's public behavioral health system.

County boards of commissioners are the Local Mental Health Authority, with the duty to administer Oregon's mental health policies, adopt a local plan to serve community needs and provide oversight and accountability of our state-county shared services.

Counties partner with the Oregon Health Authority to provide behavioral health services and supports that help our communities thrive and reduce avoidable state hospital stays and involvement with law enforcement and the courts.

Decades of accumulated state regulation has led to duplication and confusion of roles and responsibilities for publicly funded behavioral health care. This creates costly, avoidable inefficiencies and unnecessary distress to all involved. We need your help to provide the nimble, on-demand response we all expect.

The Association of Oregon Counties asks for your support for the local behavioral health safety net with HB 2202-1 and we thank you for partnering with counties to serve all of Oregon.

Jessica Pratt
Legislative Affairs Manager
Association of Oregon Counties