

April 3, 2025

TO: Co-Chairs Broadman and Evans and members of the Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee On Public Safety

FROM: Umatilla County Commissioner John Shafer

RE: Support \$46.9M for county and tribal deflection programs

Dear Co-Chairs Broadman and Evans and members of the committee,

My name is John Shafer. I am a Umatilla County Commissioner and the President of the Association of Oregon Counties. I am writing today in strong support of HB 5005, including \$46.9M for county deflection programs.

As you know, the county commissioners are the Local Mental Health Authority for our respective counties. The commissioners provide oversight and coordination between human services and public safety partners.

As with any good program, it requires the funding to make it a success. We are halfway there. We have a good framework, now it must be funded. Umatilla County was an early adopter of the deflection program, and we are just now starting to see the fruits of our labor.

Please support the \$46.9M for county and tribal deflection programs. I also want to thank you for your continued partnership with counties to serve all of Oregon.