



April 9, 2025

TO: Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response

**RE: HB 2954 – Addiction Prevention Funding for local health departments**

Co-Chairs Prozanski and Kropf, Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP) I am expressing support for HB 2954 to provide funding for addiction prevention programs established or expanded by local health departments and federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon. AOCMHP represents all community mental health programs (CMHPs) across the state. CMHPs provide substance use disorder and co-occurring integrated treatment and early intervention services for youth, adults and families, or contract with other providers for these services.

Primary prevention across the health care system has been chronically underfunded. Given the high cost of addiction in Oregon, both in terms of tragic loss of life and financial cost, investing in primary prevention will save lives and is much less expensive than acute, crisis and long-term chronic disease care. As experts in primary prevention, local public health departments are the most logical entities to effectively implement addiction prevention programs.

Thanks for the opportunity to express our support for HB 2954 as a means to prevent addiction as well as bad health outcomes and early mortality resulting from addiction.

Sincerely,

Cherryl Ramirez

Executive Director

Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs