



April 9, 2025

TO: Co-Chairs Prozanski and Kropf and members of the Joint Committee On
Addiction and Community Safety Response
FROM: Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager, Jessica Pratt
RE: HB 3576

Dear Co-Chairs Prozanski and Kropf and members of the committee,

While the Association of Oregon Counties is awaiting important amendments before taking a position on HB 3576, I write today representing Oregon's county governments to affirm the urgent need for the deflection program funding formula to be uncoupled from the Behavioral Health Resource Networks (BHRN) formula ahead of the impending new grant cycle.

County boards of commissioners are the Local Mental Health Authority, providing oversight of our state-county shared services and coordination between local human services and public safety partners.

Last year, the Legislature passed HB 4002 to respond to the growing crisis related to uncontrolled illicit drug use. It created a new misdemeanor for possession of a controlled substance and tasked counties with creating deflection programs that connect appropriate individuals to substance abuse treatment in lieu of citation.

In order to get funding out to counties in time for some deflection programs to be operational by the effective date of the new misdemeanor, HB 4002 directed the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) to use the formula previously created by the Measure 110 Oversight and Accountability Council to fund BHRNs.

Since then, it has become clear that the allocation of deflection program funding should be administered by the same agency responsible for the programs' oversight, ensuring that the formula is closely aligned with evolving program design and best practices in partnership between counties and the CJC.

This need is made more urgent by the destabilizing effect that the new BRHN formula will have on our deflection programs if we fail to enact this change ahead of the next grant cycle.

We look forward to working with you to keep deflection program operations stable and thank you for partnering with AOC and counties to serve all of Oregon.

Jessica Pratt
Legislative Affairs Manager
Association of Oregon Counties