



February 3, 2026

TO: Chair Pham and members of the House Committee On Behavioral Health
FROM: Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager, Jessica Pratt
RE: Support HB 4083

Dear Chair Pham 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 4083 to reduce administrative barriers to an effective behavioral health safety net across the state.

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.

Our community members seeking substance abuse and mental health treatment are experiencing delays in accessing care. These delays create a cascade of economic and quality of life costs to the individual, the community and to taxpayer funded systems. Chronic vacancies and high staff turnover rates in publicly-funded behavioral health services contribute to these delays. This workforce shortage is due in large part to the enormous administrative burden on direct care staff which we observe is driving them out of public service and into the private sector.

Diminishing the outsized administrative burden, including streamlined credentialing and elimination of duplicative reporting, is the least costly mechanism for recruitment and retention of qualified staff in Oregon's behavioral health safety net and HB 4083 is another step in the right direction.

The Association of Oregon Counties asks for your support for HB 4083 and we thank you for partnering with counties to serve all of Oregon.

Jessica Pratt
Legislative Affairs Manager
Association of Oregon Counties