

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: County concerns and suggested amendment to HB 4069-1

Chair Pham and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties, representing Oregon's county governments, I am writing to flag concerns with HB 4069 that remain even with the helpful amendments that are in process today.

Counties are aligned with the intent of the bill sponsors to maximize the safety of Oregon's behavioral health workforce and want to help ensure that the bill as contemplated can be meaningfully operationalized and without unintended consequences to the integrity of the local health and human services safety net.

Some counties are still vetting the bill (including the amendment in process). We will follow up directly with the bill sponsors as we learn more, but want to share a current concern and a requested change:

- With regard to structural safety of the built environment (line 12 of the -1 amendment): How can this be achieved in mobile crisis response? Counties cannot control the environments into which crisis staff are called. What happens if a modification requested by staff cannot be made? Is liability introduced for the organization or department?
- Similarly, the difficulty of overseeing non-county emergency shelters and halfway houses introduces unmanageable liability to counties that could further destabilize the local safety net infrastructure. For that reason, **we request that “halfway house” and “emergency shelter” (base bill lines 13 and 15) be removed from the bill.**

UNITED COUNTIES. UNITED OREGON.

We thank you for your consideration of these implementation and liability concerns and for partnering with counties to serve all of Oregon.

Jessica Pratt
Legislative Affairs Manager
Association of Oregon Counties