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STATE SENATOR
District 17



OREGON STATE SENATE

Testimony in Support of HB 4042

February 10, 2026
House Committee On Behavioral Health
1:00 p.m., Hearing Room 50

Chair Pham, Vice Chair Edwards, Vice Chair Javadi, and members of the committee.

For the record, my name is Lisa Reynolds, and I serve as Senator for Oregon's 17th District. I also work as a pediatrician serving children and families in my district and beyond.

I support any effort to increase youth access to behavioral health services including HB 4042. When kids don't have access to behavioral health services, they end up in Emergency Departments. This is not an ideal setting for kids in crisis.

We have got to do something to help providers keep their doors open. I hear from my psychiatrist colleagues that facilities are now hesitant or unwilling to serve youth with aggressive behaviors due to liability fears, thus depriving our most at-risk children of desperately needed services

HB 4042 provides some relief as it allows DHS the option to place conditions on licensing. This is a needed alternative to closing programs and will give providers the opportunity to remedy problems and improve services.

In 2016 and 2021, two bills were passed that had the unintended consequence of labeling necessary interventions by staff as potential abuse. Since then, Oregon has experienced a drastic reduction in psychiatric beds available for youth. This has directly contributed to more than double the number of youths entering our psychiatric emergency departments.

HB 4042 works to reverse and improve upon some of those policies that were altered in 2016 and 2021

Please vote yes on HB 4042 and make a legislative commitment to address access problems in the youth behavioral health system.

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