



**Henry T. O’Keeffe**

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**Via Email**

Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair and Members of the Oregon State Senate Committee on Judiciary  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
[sjud.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:sjud.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

**Re: Support for -1 Amendment to SB 297**

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Henry O’Keeffe. I am General Counsel for Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI). As you may be aware, GOBHI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that is a National Committee for Quality Assurance accredited Managed Behavioral Healthcare Organization and is charged with administering all or part of the behavioral health Medicaid benefit in 17 rural and frontier counties in Oregon. GOBHI is a co-owner of the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization, and is responsible for the administration and oversight of behavioral health services for Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of the -1 amendment to Senate Bill 297 (SB 297-1). As you are no doubt aware, SB 297-1 authorizes judges of federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon to initiate commitment procedures under ORS 426.070. GOBHI believes that permitting tribal courts in Oregon to initiate commitment procedures will result in expanded, and more rapid, access to necessary behavioral health services for individuals subject to the jurisdiction of Oregon’s tribal courts. While this may just be a first step, it is an important first step.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me in the manner that is most convenient for you.

Sincerely,

Henry T. O’Keeffe

Enclosure: N/A

cc: Senator Bill Hansell