



Chair Salinas, Vice-chairs Hayden and Nosse, Members of the House Health Care Committee,

My name is Dan Torres and I am a political coordinator with AFSCME Council 75. Council 75 represents over 27,000 workers in Oregon including a number working in behavioral health. We are also members of SASS, the Solidarity Alliance of Social Services, which is a community advocacy group working to improve behavioral health in Oregon for both consumers and the workforce.

Sadly, as many of you know, Oregon ranks dead last or near the bottom in mental health outcomes. This is due to a variety of reasons but, in order for us to make improvements, it will take community effort. We should be making sure we are using all resources available to improve care and access. We also know at the same time there are large health systems which receive the benefits of non-profit status with very low standards for how much community benefits or what kind of community benefits they provide.

On more than one occasion, we have also seen larger non-profit health care systems come into a small community and buy the local clinic or care facility. Upon doing this, that clinic now is no longer on the tax roll for the local assessment and the community ends up losing that revenue that normally could be invested in community mental health programs. This puts a strain on the services provided and increases the need for backfill from the general fund.

House Bill 3076 aims to address that broken dynamic by looking at standards within our community benefit for non-profit status. With an increased investment of community benefits dollars and resources into community mental health we can begin to increase our outcome score and better the results.

For these reasons Oregon AFSCME Council 75 stands in support of HB 3076. We see this as a common sense approach to ensuring that the benefits received from non-profit status are having the largest, tangible impact in our local communities. It is crucial we look at not just how much community benefit is provided, but making sure it is invested in ways that truly improves healthcare outcomes for those who need assistance.

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