



AFSCME Supports HB 4031, HB 4182 & HB 4149

February 6, 2020

Dear Chair Greenlick, Vice Chairs Hayden and Mitchell and members of the Behavioral Health Committee,

Thank you, for the opportunity to provide a quick statement in support of HB 4031, HB 4182, and HB 4149. Oregon AFSCME represents a growing number of public and private employees in the state including some of our recently organized members in the behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment sectors.

We appreciate the work that the House Behavioral Health has been doing and are looking forward to the continued conversations that these three bills set into motion. In addition to Mr Fitts's call for people who live with the experiences whose treatments we are trying to improve, AFSCME would ask that you also include the voices of direct care – non-management-workforce. They know first-hand where they need supports and improvements to provide the best possible services for the people they are working with.

We look forward to the continued conversations around:

- Transparency on how funding is spent by contractors
- Establishing professional standards for the workforce that include
 - Workload and/or caseload standards
 - Access to affordable training and supports
- Stabilizing the workforce through
 - Increased wages
 - Clear career paths for all who enter the work

We know that you are dedicated to these conversations and look forward to working with all of you.

In unity,

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