



ALEX CUYLER

Intergovernmental Relations Manager
Alex.Cuyler@co.lane.or.us

DATE: February 11, 2020
TO: House Committee Behavioral Health
RE: HB 4149, relating to behavioral health

Chair Greenlick and members of the Committee:

Lane County has examined HB 4149, and the -2 amendment under the Committee's consideration and cannot bring itself to fully embrace this path forward without a better understanding of how the Oregon Health Authority and the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission will work with counties and local addiction providers if this measure advances to the Governor's desk. To our knowledge, there has been very little information flow on this measure during the interim or even during the immediate lead up to this Legislative session. The lack of communication is hindering our ability to weigh in on this measure with the level of confidence we normally seek before taking a position to support a measure.

Lane County has watched the evolution of the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission. We provided feedback to the Commission on its strategic plan and have considered how to more formally gain involvement with the Commission through submitting a staff or Commissioner for membership onto the Commission. We have also been supportive of the work of Oregon Recovers, and acknowledged Governor Brown's declaration that addiction is a public health crisis. We are working in particular to combat opioid addiction locally, and have accomplished a number of successes in this work.

However, we think HB 4149 if amended by the -2 amendment will impact existing resources now flowing to the very programs we use to combat addiction, and will insert a new bureaucracy into state government that we are not sure will actually improve service delivery at the local level, given the vagueness of the -2 amendment.

What specificity the -2 amendment does provide, in terms of ensuring the geographic distribution of resources may also conflict with larger and more comprehensive policy framed by Public Health Modernization. That is, focusing on resource distribution based on actual local health needs and local health burdens. We might rather the Legislature add \$10M to the existing 19-21 appropriation for Public Health Modernization.

Lane County recognizes that the short session is by its nature a fast moving environment. If we can be better informed about HB 4149, or if additional amendments are in the works that we can review, we will examine those carefully and re-inform the committee if our recommendation changes.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY ALEX CUYLER