

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HB 2949 Relating to mental health

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Human Services Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Bynum

HB 2949 establishes incentive programs funded by the American Rescue Plan Act to increase the capacity and diversity of Oregon’s behavioral health workforce. The measure provides \$60 million to the Oregon Health Authority for incentives that increase the number of providers with specific credentials who are people of color, tribal members, or residents of rural communities who can provide culturally responsive behavioral health services. An additional \$20 million is provided for a new grant program that enables behavioral health professionals to provide supervised clinical experience to associates in order for them to obtain a license to practice in their fields.

OHA is required to work with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission in considering these workforce investments and also ensure the new incentives and grants align with other state investments intended to improve behavioral health outcomes.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends HB 2949 be amended by the -A28 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.