

Chair and members fo Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

As a longtime resident of Jackson county in southern Oregon I am strongly supporting the \$10 million funding in the state budget for HB 2217 to provide resources to local communities who are starting or planning mobile mental health crisis teams (CAHOOTS). So many families including ours have loved ones who have experienced mental health crisis with no other option than to call the police. All across our country we all are now understanding that there is a better way to address this terrible need for help. CAHOOTS, rooted in our state has become the model for a cost effective, compassionate, and efficacious response that gets folks the services they need and KEEPS THE OUT OF JAIL.

I have personal experience trying to help a family member with a mental health breakdown that showed the extreme need we have for a mobile crisis approach without police.

And I have been connected with local groups in southern Oregon that are united in seeing HB 2417 be the pathway to starting a new mobile mental health crisis program.

NOW is the time to jumpstart new CAHOOTS like programs in our state.

Please pass HB 2417 and fund for at least \$10 million.