



## **Testimony in support of HB 2469 – Behavioral Health Checkups**

February 17, 2021

Dear Chair Sanchez and Members of the House Behavioral Health Committee,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP), representing all CMHPs across the state, I would like to express our support for HB 2469, as a preventive measure to allow providers to intervene early and avoid waiting until individuals need acute or crisis care. A low barrier behavioral health checkup, gauging both mental health and potential substance misuse, would move us forward on the path of connecting our brains to the rest of our bodies.

As local behavioral health system managers, our CMHPs would like to focus more on prevention and mental health promotion in their communities. A simple behavioral health checkup, conducted at a primary care home or behavioral health home of the individual's choice, will provide the information needed to determine the appropriate intervention and level of care for optimum health.

One addition we would suggest is to allow anyone in the community to access this behavioral health checkup, regardless of insurance status.

Thanks for the opportunity to write in support of HB 2469.

Sincerely,

*Cherryl L. Ramirez*

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Executive Director, AOCMHP