



February 17, 2021

Submitted via electronic mail

House Committee on Behavioral Health:

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties, representing all 36 County governments, I am excited to write in support of HB 3046 as amended. AOC applauds the efforts made by the Behavioral Health Provider Coalition to come to agreement on this bill, and recognizes the national and state efforts to create more legitimized parity in our behavioral health systems.

While equal treatment for mental health care is already federal law, Oregon has work to do to ensure that Oregonians seeking mental health and substance use treatment services are able to as easily access behavioral health treatment as they are other medical care. This effort will require insurers, CCOs, and other behavioral health providers to make systemic changes in order to create more equal access.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in, and we urge the committee to support this bill as amended.

Regards,

Lizzy Atwood Wills
Health and Human Services Legislative Affairs Manager
Association of Oregon Counties
latwoodwills@oregoncounties.org