

My name is Mary Rosas, and I am a resident of Jackson County, Oregon. I am writing to express my support of HB 2417. People with mental health diagnoses are 50 percent more likely than other Oregonians to have violent run-ins with the police. Police officers are not equipped with the appropriate tools and training to address a person in a mental health crisis. By employing a team of trained crisis responders including a mental health professional and an EMT, interactions with those suffering from mental health crises or issues related homelessness or addiction can be handled with resources for care instead of turning them into potentially dangerous situations with legal ramifications. Police officers are often called upon to deal with people in need of help. A CAHOOTS style program would help free up officers to handle real emergencies while non-criminal situations are addressed by a crisis intervention team. Please vote to help fund mobile crisis intervention teams which are a much needed addition to our communities.

Thank you,

Mary Rosas