

I am writing in full support of HB 2417. We need to provide grant opportunities to Oregon communities especially in rural areas to create mental health crisis teams who are trained to provide trauma informed de-escalation and harm reduction for residents who are not doing criminal activity or in need of hospital level services particularly during weekend and evening hours when other clinics are closed. I work as a Nurse Practitioner at La Clinica in Medford both in the clinic and on our mobile health van. I see patients struggling every day with depression, anxiety, substance use disorder, PTSD and houselessness. Recent climate events with smoke and fire and the pandemic have only increased the number of people vulnerable to stress and at risk for crises in our community. Many of them lack medication, social support, adequate homes and food. These needs can't be addressed appropriately with police intervention or emergency room care. Not only do these approaches fail to provide a long-term solution, they are also more expensive than a two person team of medical and mental health caregivers who can move patients toward comprehensive, community based solutions.