



Date: April 5, 2021
To: House Behavioral Health Committee
RE: HB 2949

Chair Sanchez and Members of the House Behavioral Health Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Tri County Behavioral Health Providers Association (TCBHPA). TCBHPA represents and advocates for more than 30 behavioral health provider groups in Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas Counties. As a member organization with first-hand experience working in Oregon's complex behavioral health system, we are well aware of the gaps that our state faces as it relates to workforce support.

TCBHPA appreciates the work of Representative Bynum and fellow stakeholders on HB 2949, which seeks to improve Oregon's behavioral health system through workforce stabilization. Even though we've seen an increased focus on behavioral health over the years, our members have continued to see high turnover rates and lengthy recruitments plague provider organizations that serve Oregon's Medicaid population, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. We must act now to improve our system and support our providers, and HB 2949 is a crucial step in the right direction.

While we appreciate the work being done by the sponsors of this bill, we encourage the committee to continue these conversations around workforce support and retention. Incentive programs and the streamlining of workforce requirements will benefit our providers, but we cannot not stop there. TCBHPA recommends the committee continue these discussions on the ongoing issues that impact our industry and our ability to serve Oregonians, while engaging those who have lived experience in the system.

We thank the committee for their continued support of our providers and look forward to working with the sponsors of this bill and fellow stakeholders to develop and implement legislation that will help provide meaningful stabilization of our workforce.

Thank you,

Tri County Behavioral Health Providers Association

TCBHPA Members: [Adventist Health](#), [Allied/Acadia Health Services](#), [Asian Health and Services Center](#), [Bridges to Change](#), [Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare](#), [Catholic Charities](#), [Catholic Community Services](#), [Central City Concern](#), [CODA](#), [DePaul Treatment Centers](#), [Kinship House](#), [Legacy Health](#), [Lifeworks Northwest](#), [Lines for Life](#), [New Narrative](#), [Lutheran Community Services](#), [Morrison Child and Family Services](#), [NARA NW](#), [Northwest Family Services](#), [Options Counseling and Family Services](#), [Outside In](#), [Project Quest](#), [Providence Health and Services](#), [Sequoia Mental Health](#), [Telecare Corporation](#), [The NW Catholic Counseling Center](#), [Trillium Family Services](#), [Western Psychological](#), [Youth Contact](#)