

Dear Representatives Sanchez, Marsh and Sollman, I hope you hear from hundreds of concerned Oregonians who know there is a desperate need for more successful outcomes for our neighbors, family members, and friends in need/crisis not found with being handcuffed, riding in a police car to jail or the worse outcome death by officer. Mostly personal or family emergencies, yet added together---literally thousands of 911 calls across the state, 24/7, declaring an emergency 1 July 2021, seems totally appropriate. Because it begs for solutions, and what we are doing now isn't working, it is ineffective, expensive and preventing the police from doing what they are trained to do.

We have a successful 30 y/o model in CAHOOTS (born in Eugene,OR.), to create our own Rogue Valley Program, name yet to be envisioned. It needs to knit what we have together with creating what we need, with many human service agencies and the police, city departments to birth our unique care for our under served community members, often with mental health issues complicating their lives. We are all interconnected. The care and respect we afford each person whatever their circumstances reflects back on our community. With appropriate determination, will of the politicians and people, adequate funding to get our home grown CAHOOTS like service up and running, we would be grateful for financial aid with the heavy lifting before us. We need to relieve the police of social services work to support them too. Thank you for your work envisioned in HB 2417.