

# Catholic Community Services Foundation

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February 2, 2022

House Committee on Behavioral Health  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice Chair Moore-Green, Vice Chair Reynolds and members of the committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 4071. As the CEO of Catholic Community Services and Catholic Community Service Foundation, I can attest to the importance of investing in the clinicians providing behavioral health services.

Catholic Community Services started the first outpatient community-based mental health clinic in the Mid-Willamette Valley in 1958. Our clinic has been in continuous operation serving OHP members (or OHP predecessors) since 1958.

I can assure you that the current behavioral need in our communities is greater than ever. At the same time, the recruitment and retention of qualified behavioral health professionals is more challenging than ever. I could go into great length about why these challenges exist and without additional support will persist but that would be much longer piece of testimony. The reality is that the most vulnerable in our community, the marginalized and those who have faced extreme Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) deserve well supported clinicians. Organizations like Catholic Community Services, a 501c3 nonprofit with the mission to serve all people needs the resources and strategies to recruit, support and retain caring dedicated clinicians. Reimbursement rates for services alone do not provide adequate funding to meet the current needs related to supporting these incredibly valuable professionals.

I urge you to support HB 4071 and continue to look at additional resource allocations in support of behavioral health services. It is a critical need during a critical time!

Thank you for your service to our community and for supporting HB 4071

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua K. Graves, MBA, QMHA



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