



WASHINGTON COUNTY OREGON

February 8, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

Subject: Support for HB 2757

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Nelson and Goodwin and Members of the Committee:

I write today on behalf of Washington County in support of HB 2757 which would create the 9-8-8 Trust Fund and establish continuing funding for improving the state's coordinated crisis system.

Washington County has seen the firsthand impact of the importance of having a crisis line available for Oregonians to call into. We receive between 14000-16,000 calls to our Crisis Line a year. These numbers have not been reduced in the 6 months since 988's launch. In fact, Washington County has seen an increase in mobile crisis services since the 2021 session and in the last 12 months our Crisis Services that are operated by LifeWorks Northwest has seen 5064 unique clients provided 9000 unique episodes of care.

The simple truth is that with demand like this we need additional funding for our mobile crisis system and the operations of 988. While the legislature made an initial investment in 2021 to support mobile crisis, Oregon needs to continue investing in this system for it to be successful.

As Oregon's most diverse county and second biggest, Washington County is proud of the inclusion of language which requires training on cultural fluency and staff representation of the communities that are served through this bill.

For all these reasons, we urge your support of HB 2757 so that we continue to invest in the systems that serve all our communities where they are at so that we can help them get to where they want to be.

Thank you,

Zakir Khan
Government Relations Manager
Zakir_Khan@washingtoncountyor.gov