Representative Rob Nosse, Chair
Representative Christine Goodwin, Vice-Chair
Representative Travis Nelson, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Delivered electronically.

Re: Support for House Bill 2543

The PacificSource companies are independent, not-for-profit health insurance providers based in Oregon. We serve over 600,000 commercial, Medicaid, and Medicare Advantage members in four states. PacificSource Community Solutions is the contracted coordinated care organization (CCO) in Central Oregon, the Columbia River Gorge, Marion & Polk Counties, and Lane County. Our mission is to provide better health, better care, and better value to the people and communities we serve.

We write the committee to ask for your support on House Bill 2543. Community mental health programs (known as CMHPs) provide key services to the most vulnerable members of the communities we serve. CMHPs deliver behavioral health care to individuals with the highest of needs. CMHPs are crucial to the care of patients placed and discharged from the Oregon State Hospital. Coordinated care organizations sign cooperative agreements with CMHPs, as well as ensure that CMHPs provide meaningful input into both our community health assessments and in our community health improvement plans. CMHPs are key partners in how we deliver Medicaid benefits in our assigned regions.

House Bill 2543 ensures that the Oregon Health Authority engage in a data-driven approach to determine the appropriate funding needs for CMHPs on a regular basis. We support collaborative approaches to funding challenges, and we hope the Oregon Health Authority will engaged in a robust collaborative process when consulting with stakeholders on these funding studies.

For questions or concerns, please contact me at richard.blackwell@pacificsource.com.

Sincerely,

/s

Richard Blackwell
Director, Oregon Government Relations