



March 10, 2023

TO: Chair Nosse, members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health & Health Care

FROM: Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager, Jessica Pratt

RE: Support HB 2463

Dear Chair Nosse and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties, representing Oregon's county governments, I am writing to you today to urge your support for HB 2463 to reduce administrative burdens on our community behavioral health care providers and increase system efficiencies.

The demand for community behavioral health services in the wake of the pandemic and in the midst of Oregon's housing and homelessness crisis is well above our current capacity to meet, leaving many of our neighbors waiting months for care and doing moral injury to our care professionals. At the same time, Oregon statute and administrative rule has become bloated with out of date language and redundant or nonsensical administrative requirements. This has led to confusion, system inefficiencies, and ultimately, valuable time taken away from direct care for people in need.

This unnecessary administrative burden has been accumulating for many years, despite diligent efforts by stakeholders to recommend fixes. It has become clear that without the legislative oversight and accountability of HB 2463, that administrative burden and waste of direct care hours will continue unchecked.

AOC urges your support for HB 2463 and we thank you for your support for state-county shared services.

Jessica Pratt
Legislative Affairs Manager
Association of Oregon Counties