

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, Members of the Committee,

We write to you in support of SB 1044. We are grateful to Governor Kotek for her unwavering leadership on behavioral health and are thrilled to see such meaningful investments included in the budget.

In the past few years, the Legislature has made large investments in the behavioral health system that are beginning to make up for decades of underinvestment in behavioral health infrastructure and workforce. These investments were intended to be a down payment. The billion-dollar figure often referenced includes the federal matching funds drawn down by state investment and existing resources that were redirected, like Measure 110 funds. OHA and OHSU have assessed a sizeable remaining need outlined below. This includes funds to ensure behavioral health rates are tied to cost of living, to guard against the wage stagnation that got us to a crisis in the first place.

- **\$178M for Mental Health Residential** ([OHA's 12/8/22 report](#) to the BH committee showed \$125m funded 198 beds and assessed a remaining need is 282 beds.)
- **\$93.3M for Substance Use Disorder Residential** (OHSU's Substance Use Disorder Services Inventory & Gap Analysis assessed the remaining need for residential SUD beds as 283 plus 28 beds for withdrawal management multiplied by a recent provider assessment of the cost of bringing a new bed online at \$300k/bed.)
- **At least \$235.8M for Supportive Housing** (The above listed [OHA presentation](#) reports 943 beds are still needed for supportive housing)
- **\$10.6M for a rate COLA** (If it cost \$61m/year (\$122/biennium) general fund to do a 30% rate increase and the national Social Security Administration is 8.7% Then implementing an 8.7% increase for the 23-25 biennium would have the listed GF impact.)
- **Additional funding for expansion of core services required in statute** that are not funded by Medicaid or other insurance. These include mobile crisis and crisis stabilization, Aid and Assist community restoration, and pre-commitment services for people in the civil commitment process.
- **Additional funding and inflation adjustments** to support the workforce providing non-Medicaid services provided by the Oregon State Hospital and by Community Mental Health Programs.

SB 1044 provides a meaningful foundation. And, the above investments are needed to make up lost ground.

Thank you for your consideration,



ASSOCIATION OF OREGON  
COMMUNITY MENTAL  
HEALTH PROGRAMS