

March 20, 2023

TO: Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, Members of the Committee
FROM: Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager, Jessica Pratt
RE: Support SB 1044-2 (Needed investment in community behavioral health)

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, 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 Senate Bill 1044-2 to fund critical pieces of the continuum of community mental health and addictions services and supports which every community in Oregon needs to thrive. There are large holes in Oregon's behavioral health safety net which can be repaired with your support for state-county shared services, and we are grateful for the historic leadership of Governor Kotek to continue that work.

In addition, I commend to you the [joint letter](#) from the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs and others, detailing the remaining need to make Oregon's behavioral health safety net whole, including:

- \$178M for Mental Health Residential
- \$93.3M for Substance Use Disorder Residential
- At least \$235.8M for Supportive Housing
- \$10.6M for a rate COLA
- 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.

AOC urges your support for a complete continuum of community behavioral health care aided by SB 1044-2 and we thank you for your support for state-county shared services.