



February 6, 2024

TO: Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Committee on Education

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

RE: Support SB 1592

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Committee on Education,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties, representing Oregon's county governments, I am writing to urge your support for SB 1592, to grow and retain new behavioral health professionals in communities across Oregon.

Oregon counties are experiencing high vacancy rates for critical behavioral health professionals across the local continuum of care. Some positions have been open for years, particularly in rural communities.

SB 1592 will attract students at universities around the state to the behavioral health field and help them overcome the barriers of tuition and costly supervision requirements that these professions pose. This bill is an important piece of a multi-pronged strategy to attract and grow a local behavioral health workforce with strong roots in their communities.

AOC urges your support for SB 1592 and we thank you for your support for state-county shared services.

Jessica Pratt  
Legislative Affairs Manager  
Association of Oregon Counties