



Chair Holvey
Vice-Chair Elmer
Vice-Chair Sosa
Members of the House Business and Labor Committee

Feb 12, 2024
Testimony in Support of HB 4050

Dear Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs Elmer and Sosa and members of the House Business and Labor Committee:

GOBHI (Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc) supports HB 4050.

GOBHI is a behavioral health and social services network serving 12 rural/frontier counties with the goal of empowering individuals and communities to achieve better health. GOBHI was established in 1994 and is a non-profit organization.

GOBHI knows firsthand the difficulty of attracting workers into our rural and frontier behavioral health system.

In 2022, GOBHI utilized the HB 4004 health care workforce grants that the legislature authorized for health care workers. Using those grants we were able to provide retention and hiring bonuses. Those grants worked well for attracting our needed workforce. Unfortunately, the Pay Equity law exemption that allowed us to offer those grants expired. However, our staffing levels are still at a crisis level.

HB 4050 will give us the flexibility to attract the workers that we desperately need in our rural and frontier behavioral health system and we fully support it.

Please support **HB 4050**.

Thank you.

Submitted by: Anna Braun with Braun Law LLC representing GOBHI (Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc).