



ASSOCIATION OF OREGON
COMMUNITY MENTAL
HEALTH PROGRAMS

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Wallan, and members of the committee,

The Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP) represents the Community Developmental Disability Programs (CDDPs) that provide case management services to individuals who experience an Intellectual or Developmental Disability (I/DD).

Case managers are a lifeline for individuals who experience an I/DD. They protect people's health and safety, and ensure that individuals receive the services they need and are entitled by law. Whether it is finding a job, housing, or transportation to medical appointments, a case manager from a CDDP must always be there when called upon.

Such situations include when an individual who experiences an I/DD is in need of either hospital or emergency care. Seeking such care is a stressful experience for anyone - the confusion and potential pain can be overwhelming. Such stress and confusion can sometimes be even more severe for an individual who experiences an I/DD.

Individuals with disabilities who are in crisis are extremely unlikely to change their behavior because of enhanced legal consequences. The introduced version of HB 4088 recognized this, and included an exemption from the heightened criminal penalty for an individual who experiences an I/DD. The -2 amendment appears to remove such an exemption.

We would strongly encourage this committee to re-insert the language from the introduced version of HB 4088 to ensure individuals who experience an I/DD are not swept up into the criminal justice system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dawn-Alisa Sadler
DD Specialist - AOCMHP