

Submitter: Angela Plowhead

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB4139

House Bill 4139 Allows mental health and addiction clinics to be built without having to get permission from Oregon Health Administration, and be granted a Certificate of Need.

7 years ago, this requirement for the "Certificate of Need" stopped a hospital from being built in Wilsonville. This facility would have served Veterans on one side and civilians on the other wing. This facility would have provided much needed much needed mental healthcare and drug treatment.

Our state has too few facilities and providers to manage the issues related to addiction, severe and persistent mental illness and geriatric concerns. The current certificate of need allows for profit businesses to prevent other necessary service providers from establishing care in our state.

As one of the few psychologist in the state who specializes in geriatric care, I see the results of the current laws daily. I see older adults in psychiatric distress and psychosis and a health care system that does not have the ability to stabilize them in an outpatient setting and not enough inpatient beds where they can safely be stabilized without posing a danger to themselves, their families or long term care staff. With only 2 facilities in the state that specialize in geriatric psychiatry and an aging population, our state will only face a growing need to address dementia related psychosis.

Please vote to support HB 4139.