



February 28, 2024

## CareOregon Comments on HB 4002

CareOregon is a community non-profit organization serving over 500,000 Oregonians covered by the Oregon Health Plan for nearly 30 years. CareOregon wholly owns two coordinated care organizations (CCOs), Jackson Care Connect and Columbia Pacific CCO. We are also a founding member of Health Share of Oregon, managing an integrated community network and the behavioral health benefit for all Health Share of Oregon members. We also serve statewide through our tribal care coordination benefit.

While CareOregon is **neutral** on HB 4002, we support two provisions in the bill increasing Oregonians' access to lifesaving medication for opioid-use disorder (MOUD).

The opioid addiction crisis has highlighted the need to improve MOUD services within our local jail systems. Currently, when adults in custody enter a local carceral facility they are no longer eligible for OHP or Medicaid to support continuing or initiating addiction treatment. Consequences include traumatic withdrawal in jail, disruption of community addiction treatment plans and jeopardized continuity of addiction care at release. The Oregon Jail-Based Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Grant Program is an important step in promoting MOUD access, treatment continuity, and helping end cyclical drug use and incarceration.

Given the "all hands-on deck" nature of the opioid addiction crisis, we also support expanding MOUD access via prescribing pharmacists. CareOregon supports language that will direct the Oregon Board of Pharmacy to adopt the appropriate rules to make distribution of life saving medicine as safe and efficient as possible.

We are grateful for the collaboration that led to the inclusion of these provisions within HB 4002, and look forward to continuing our work with all stakeholders to find innovative ways to serve our members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "H. B. Rigsby".

Jeremiah Rigsby, JD  
Chief of Staff  
CareOregon

