



February 26, 2025

TO: Co-Chairs Prozanski and Kropf and members of the Joint Committee On
Addiction and Community Safety Response
FROM: Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager, Jessica Pratt
RE: SB 610-1

Dear Co-Chairs Prozanski and Kropf and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC), representing Oregon's county governments, I am writing to underscore the concerns articulated by the bill's proponents this evening regarding the persistent and grievous issues in the governance of Drug Treatment and Recovery Services Fund expenditures.

While AOC has not taken a position on the bill, I would draw your attention to the [written testimony](#) submitted by the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs which details both historic and more recent faults in the process for distributing Behavioral Health Resource Network funding.

The services provided by Oregon's Behavioral Health Resource Network grantees, including community mental health programs serving 31 of our 36 counties, have become a critical part of the local behavioral health safety net - a safety net which counties are statutorily responsible to plan and oversee.

It is critical that the state's process for allocating these resources honors Oregon's proud tradition of open government, is transparent and responsive to public comment, has a formal connection to the local mental health authority and the expertise of our community mental health programs, and if possible, establishes a fair mechanism to buffer local behavioral health systems against inevitable fluctuations in the Fund's cannabis tax revenue.

The urgency to fix these problems is compounded by the reliance of our nascent county deflection programs on their Behavioral Health Resource Networks. Many of our deflection coordinators tell us that their programs simply will not work without maintenance of their current BHRN capacity.

We look forward to working with you to stabilize this critical infrastructure. Thank you for partnering with AOC and counties to serve all of Oregon.

Jessica Pratt
Legislative Affairs Manager
Association of Oregon Counties