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## MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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February 27, 2025

Co-Chair Senator Floyd Prozanski  
Co-Chair Representative Jason Kropf  
Members of the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response

**Subject: Support for SB 610 – Ensuring a Fair and Effective Behavioral Health Funding Formula**

Dear Co-Chair Prozanski, Co-Chair Kropf, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 610, which would reformat the funding formula for Behavioral Health Resource Network (BHRN) funding. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 610, and I want to extend my gratitude to our partners in Washington County for bringing this important legislation to the legislature.

Oregon's current behavioral health funding structure does not adequately account for the unique needs of each county. The one-size-fits-all approach fails to reflect the service demands in counties like Marion, which houses critical state institutions that place an outsized burden on local resources. The existing funding model does not allocate sufficient resources to meet these demands, leading to service gaps that negatively impact our communities.

SB 610 introduces a more structured funding methodology by incorporating the Public Health Modernization Formula. While this is an improvement, the current methodology still does not fully account for the increased service demands in counties that house state-run institutions.

Marion County is home to several of the state's largest institutions, each contributing to an increased demand for addiction and mental health services. Individuals exiting these institutions often face significant barriers to stability, including housing insecurity, employment challenges, and limited access to continuing care. A revised funding formula must recognize these challenges and ensure counties like Marion receive adequate resources.

These state-run institutions include: the Oregon State Hospital, MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility, Oregon State Penitentiary, and Coffee Creek Women's Correctional Facility (located just outside Marion County) These institutions create a higher-than-average need for addiction and mental health services in Marion County, yet the current funding formula does not account for this burden.

Future funding models must consider counties that house state institutions, as these facilities directly and measurably impact local service demands. A revised funding formula should include weighted factors that account for:

- The presence of state-run facilities and their impact on local behavioral health and addiction services.
- The number of individuals returning to the community from these institutions.
- The actual capacity of local service providers to meet increased demand.
- Accountability and Local Provider Capacity

While SB 610 includes important oversight provisions, such as the inclusion of Community Mental Health Program (CMHP) Directors and requirements for public hearings, additional steps are necessary to ensure funding is equitably distributed.

It is critical to address the inequitable distribution of Behavioral Health Resource Network (BHRN) funding, which has disproportionately benefited providers from outside the communities they are meant to serve. In the previous funding cycle, large metro-area providers were awarded funds from Marion County's allocation despite having little to no established local presence. This diverts critical resources away from local organizations that have the infrastructure, experience, and community trust needed to provide effective services.

Moving forward, funding decisions must prioritize providers with a proven track record and operational capacity within the counties they serve. The Oregon Accountability Commission's (OAC) funding decisions significantly reduced resources for Marion County's established SUD providers, instead reallocating a substantial portion of the county's designated funds to metro-area organizations. This further strains local service capacity and must be corrected in future funding models.

SB 610 makes meaningful improvements to the Measure 110 funding structure, but it does not yet fully address the unique challenges that counties like Marion face. A truly equitable funding formula must recognize the additional burden created by housing state institutions and provide the necessary resources to support individuals transitioning back into the community.

I urge this committee to consider these factors in the development of a long-term funding solution that ensures all communities receive the support they need. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Danielle Bethell  
Chair