



Oregon Alliance

3/3/2025

RE: Support for House Bill 3229 – Removing Barriers to Behavioral Health Care

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice Chair Javadi, Vice Chair Nelson, and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

On behalf of the Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs, I urge your support for House Bill 3229, which removes unnecessary administrative barriers that delay behavioral health providers from delivering critical care.

The Oregon Alliance represents organizations providing essential services to children, youth, and families across the state—in homes, schools, residential programs, and communities. Our members ensure Oregon's most vulnerable populations receive the care they need, when they need it.

Despite Oregon's investments in expanding behavioral health services, providers often wait months to begin work due to outdated credentialing and empaneling processes. First, providers must be credentialed by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), which takes an average of 57 days and currently faces a backlog of 4,500 applications. Only after OHA approval can they seek empaneling with each Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) they work with—each CCO having its own processes and timelines. For providers serving youth across multiple regions, this creates confusing, duplicative delays.

HB 3229 streamlines this system by requiring:

- CCOs to begin reimbursement based on the date a complete application is submitted to OHA.
- OHA to improve processing speed and clear the backlog.
- CCOs to process empaneling applications within 30 days.

Some CCOs already follow similar streamlined processes—and they work well for providers, CCOs, and clients. HB 3229 would ensure this is the standard statewide.

At a time when Oregon faces a behavioral health workforce crisis, we cannot afford to let administrative red tape stand between qualified providers and the people who need them. This bill is a common-sense solution that will help translate Oregon's behavioral health investments into real, timely care.

We urge your strong support for HB 3229. Thank you for your leadership and attention to this important issue and thank you to Representative Nathanson who is the chief sponsor of the bill.

Sincerely,

Vera Stoullil
CEO, Oregon Alliance

**Empowering Organizations,
Transforming Lives**