



From: Josh Gotlib, Founder & Executive Director, Insight Northwest Recovery
To: Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
Re: Support for HB 2010
Date: March 9, 2025

Dear Chair Meek, Vice-Chair McLane, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express strong support for House Bill 2010, a critical piece of legislation that will ensure the stability of Oregon's Medicaid system and protect access to life-saving behavioral health services. As the Founder and Executive Director of Insight Northwest Recovery (INR) a leading provider of substance use and mental health treatment for teens and adults in Oregon, I see firsthand how essential Medicaid funding is for individuals and families in crisis.

The Urgent Need for Medicaid Stability in Oregon

Oregon is currently facing a behavioral health crisis, with over 1.1 million residents relying on the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) for medical and behavioral health services. Yet, According to the Oregon Health Authority, Oregon ranks near last in the country for access to both mental health and addiction treatment services, despite having some of the highest rates of mental illness and substance use disorders in the nation. If HB 2010 does not pass, the resulting Medicaid funding cuts will only deepen this crisis, leaving countless Oregonians without the care they need to recover and thrive.

Insight Northwest Recovery's Role in Oregon's Behavioral Health System

At INR, the majority of our funding comes from Medicaid, allowing us to provide critical services, including:

- Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOP) and Partial Hospitalization Programs (PHP) for teens and adults
- Mental health treatment
- Substance use/addiction treatment
- Psychiatric medication management
- Family support and therapy for those impacted by mental health and addiction

Each year, we serve over 250 individuals in Lane County alone, with Medicaid funding making treatment possible for those who otherwise could not afford care. Without the passage of HB 2010, our ability to maintain these programs will be at risk, forcing us to turn away patients in dire need.

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The Consequences of Inaction

If HB 2010 fails and Medicaid funding is reduced, the impact on Oregon's behavioral health system will be devastating:

- Reduced access to treatment for low-income individuals struggling with addiction and mental health conditions
- Longer wait times for services, increasing the likelihood of overdose and suicide
- Higher rates of emergency room visits and hospitalizations, burdening an already strained healthcare system
- Financial instability for providers like INR, leading to staffing shortages and program closures

These outcomes are not hypothetical; they are the **real consequences** we will face if Medicaid funding is cut.

HB 2010: A Lifeline for Oregon's Most Vulnerable Residents

By extending Medicaid provider assessments, HB 2010 secures the funding necessary to maintain essential health services for the most vulnerable Oregonians. This legislation is not just about numbers on a budget, it's about saving lives.

On behalf of Insight Northwest Recovery, our staff, and the thousands of Oregonians who rely on Medicaid for behavioral health treatment, I urge you to pass HB 2010 and ensure that no Oregonian is left without the care they need.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to protecting our state's most at-risk communities.

Sincerely,

Joshua Gotlib

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