



March 22, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Re: House Bill 5066

Co-chairs Lieber and Sanchez, members of the Committee, for the record, my name is Leticia Longoria-Navarro, and I am the Executive Director of The Pathfinder Network, a statewide nonprofit dedicated to providing justice-involved individuals and families the tools and support they need to be safe and thrive in our communities.

We provide critical addiction recovery and behavioral health services to individuals struggling with substance use in Multnomah, Marion and Jackson Counties who are involved in the criminal justice system. Last year we served more than 1,800 community members, adults and youth, through our programming across the state. The Pathfinder Network embeds services within the local criminal justice system in prisons, jails, transition centers and community corrections, partnering to support our shared public safety goals. BHRN funding during the first BHRN grant cycle represents a historic investment in services that save lives and help people on their path to recovery. Recent funding reductions will significantly impact our ability to continue to provide critical and lifesaving services to Oregonians struggling with addiction and criminal justice system involvement. Our organization alone will lose close to 30 percent of its funding which will lead us to reducing services, discontinuing critical services and reducing staffing and important resources provided to participants such as housing, transportation and other basic needs supports that remove barriers and increase access to care supporting recovery.

Additional sources of funding for these services are urgently needed; cannabis tax revenue is down, and the Oregon Health Authority received \$1.1 *billion* in funding requests. There was only about \$400 million in available funding total. OHA and the OAC voted to prioritize current BHRN partners, but we are all taking cuts. It will be difficult to maintain existing services with this reduced funding, and impossible to expand services to the thousands of Oregonians who still need help, are still on waiting lists, and still can't get care. Without access to evidence-based, trauma-informed harm reduction and addiction recovery programs, individuals struggling with problematic substance use are at a significantly increased risk of overdose, incarceration, and other negative outcomes. With the right support and resources, people can and do recover from addiction and go on to lead fulfilling, productive lives. That support is exactly what BHRN services fund. Oregon needs more access to treatment, supportive housing, harm reduction, and other evidence-based interventions. These services are absolutely critical. Thanks to BHRN funding, OHA reports that nearly 300,000 service encounters have taken place to connect individuals to care — care that would not have been available prior to BHRN funding.

Too many individuals and families are struggling to access the care they need. Without adequate treatment options, people are left to navigate addiction and mental health challenges on their own, often leading to worsening conditions, homelessness, or involvement in the criminal justice system. Expanding access to these services is not only a moral imperative but also a cost-effective solution that strengthens our communities, reduces strain on systems and increases public safety. I urge you to both protect BHRN funding for services like ours and allocate additional general fund money for these services so that BHRNs may continue their work and services be maintained at their current level to ensure that every Oregonian has access to the support they deserve.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Leticia Longoria-Navarro  
Executive Director