



March 26, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding House Bill 2024, sponsored by Representative Rob Nosse.

This submission is on behalf of the members of the Oregon Behavioral Health Independent Providers Association (OBHIPA). Currently, OBHIPA includes four agencies that provide substance use treatment, mental health interventions, family preservation services, housing, medical, psychiatry, dental care, and more. OBHIPA represents Valley Mental Health, Options Counseling and Family Services, Bridgeway Community Health, and Catholic Community Services; combined we served thousands of clients in 2024, offering critical supports to many Oregonians with acute physical and mental health needs.

HB 2024 with the -3 amendment provides support for mental health and substance use disorder treatment through targeted initiatives to increase recruitment and retention of direct service providers, therapists, and certified drug and alcohol counselors.

House Bill 2024 supports OBHIPA and other agencies through funding that offers:

- Scholarships for students entering the behavioral health care field;
- Loan forgiveness and repayment incentives;
- Housing assistance, which may be especially critical in rural communities and urban areas with high housing costs;
- Sign-on and retention bonuses;
- Wage increases and professional development opportunities; and
- Childcare subsidies and tuition assistance.

While certificate of approval agencies attempt to offer some of these benefits and incentives to team members, behavioral health margins are too thin to support robust, ongoing programs. HB 2024 offers financial stability for provider agencies, incentives to engage in the behavioral health care workforce through education, training, and internships, and expands mental health care access for Oregonians.

Thank you for joining us in our efforts to serve Oregonians.

Camille Soleil, Valley Mental Health, Board Chair  
Tim Murphy, Bridgeway Community Health, Vice Chair  
Josh Graves, Catholic Community Services, Treasurer  
Kelli McKnight, Options Counseling and Family Services, Secretary