

March 27, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Re: House Bill 5006

Co-chairs Lieber and Sanchez, members of the Committee, my name is Le Anne Hogan, and I am a Peer Support Program Manager of The Pathfinder Network – Resilience & Recovery Project in Multnomah County. We are 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.

I'm writing to urge increased investment in substance use disorder (SUD) and behavioral health services across Oregon. Too many individuals and families are struggling to access the care they need, whether due to long wait times, lack of providers, or financial barriers. 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 and reduces strain on emergency systems.

Oregon has one of the highest rates of substance use disorder in the country, yet ranks among the lowest in access to treatment. This gap leaves thousands of people without the support necessary to recover and thrive. Investing in harm reduction programs, crisis response teams, and comprehensive behavioral health services will save lives and provide individuals with the resources they need to heal. I urge you to prioritize funding and policies that remove barriers to care and ensure that every Oregonian has access to the support they deserve.

As a Peer Support Program Advocate, and a person who has a lot of lived experience. I have seen firsthand how these services change lives. Whether it's a loved one who found stability through medication-assisted treatment or a community member who was connected to housing and healthcare through a harm reduction program, the impact is undeniable. By funding these initiatives, we are making a commitment to evidence-based solutions that prioritize both public health and human dignity. I urge you to support increased funding for harm reduction and SUD services so that we can continue to save lives and support our communities. Thank you.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Le Anne Hogan