

April 16, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Dear Committee Members: RE: Prioritizing BHRN funding in the state budget HIV Alliance asks that you pass a strong, strategic 2025-2027 biennium budget that protects BHRN funding and allocates additional resources for vital harm reduction and recovery services. This funding is critical for the accessibility of Oregonians' behavioral health services.

HIV Alliance is a nonprofit committed to supporting people living with HIV/AIDS and preventing new HIV infections throughout Oregon. As an agency, we provide wrap-around interventions that address the social determinants of health to protect people living with and at risk for HIV in our community. At HIV Alliance, we are dedicated to reducing HIV-related health disparities that impact LGBTQIA2S+, BIPOC, and rural communities to create a more just and equitable Oregon.

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The first BHRN grant cycle represented a historic investment in life-saving services for Oregon residents. Thanks to BHRN funding, data shows that nearly 300,000 service encounters have connected individuals to care — care that would not have been available without BHRN funding. 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 with only about \$400 million in funding available. Despite OHA and OAC voting to prioritize BHRN partners, it will be difficult to maintain existing services with reduced funding and impossible to expand services to the thousands of Oregonians who seek help but are left on waitlists, unable to receive care. As federal support for behavioral health diminishes, your support for Oregon's providers is more important now than ever.

HIV Alliance appreciates your consideration of BHRN providers, their impact across the state, and their need for protected funding. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Renee Yandel Executive Director