



February 2, 2026

Dear Vice-Chairs Edwards, Javadi, and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health,

On behalf of [Oregon Recovers](http://OregonRecovers.org), a statewide coalition representing people in recovery, families, and providers across Oregon, we appreciate the Legislature's continued focus on strengthening and modernizing Oregon's behavioral health system. We strongly support the intent of the Governor's Behavioral Health Workforce Bill and its emphasis on reducing administrative burden, improving workforce capacity, and increasing consistency across credentialing and oversight.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to Oregon's First Lady, Aimee Kotek, for her leadership in advancing this work and for elevating the importance of practical, solutions-oriented reforms that strengthen access to behavioral health care across the state.

Oregon continues to face a severe behavioral health workforce shortage at the same time demand for care is rising. Providers across the state report that duplicative credentialing requirements, inconsistent processes across coordinated care organizations, and unnecessary administrative delays directly limit access to care—particularly for Medicaid members.

The bill's requirement that the Oregon Health Authority establish a uniform credentialing process and centralized portal for organizational behavioral health providers is a smart, practical solution. Standardization will reduce redundant paperwork, shorten onboarding timelines, and allow providers to spend more time delivering care rather than navigating bureaucracy. Similarly, prohibiting coordinated care organizations from imposing additional credentialing requirements will remove avoidable barriers and promote statewide consistency.

Importantly, these changes save agencies money and expand access to care without requiring additional state investment. By reducing administrative inefficiencies and workforce friction, this bill allows existing dollars to go further—making it a fiscally responsible and efficient policy choice for the short legislative session.

We are also encouraged by the bill's focus on minimizing administrative burden and requiring regular reporting to ensure implementation remains aligned with legislative intent. As these reforms move forward, ongoing transparency and collaboration with providers will be essential to avoid service disruptions and workforce instability in an already strained system.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to strengthening Oregon's behavioral health workforce. Oregon Recovers looks forward to working with you to ensure this bill achieves its full potential and delivers timely, meaningful improvements for providers and the communities they serve.

Sincerely,

Bo Brinson - Director, Oregon Recovers, a Program of 4D Recovery

- SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS**
- 4th Dimension Recovery Center
900 Wall
 - Addictions Recovery Center
 - African American Behavioral Healthcare & Addiction Treatment Coalition
Alkermes
 - All Star Labor and Staffing
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 - Bend Treatment Center
CareOregon
 - Cascade Sober Living
 - Cascadia Whole Healthcare
Cedar Hills Hospital
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CODA
Collins Foundation
Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde
 - Emergence Addiction and Behavioral Therapies
 - Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc. (GOBHI)
 - Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation
 - Health Share of Oregon
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Lines for Life
 - Mental Health & Addiction Certification Board of Oregon (MHACBO)
 - Meyer Memorial Trust
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Multnomah County
 - Northwest Instituto Latino de Adicciones
 - The Oregon Community Foundation
 - Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
 - Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace
 - Oregon Council for Behavioral Health (formerly OPERA)
 - Oregon Society of Addiction Medicine (ORSAM)
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 - Spirit Mountain Community Fund
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