

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 4083
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
FEBRUARY 3, 2026

**PRESENTED BY: CHANNA NEWELL,
SENIOR STAFF COUNSEL FOR GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

Chair Pham, Vice-Chairs Edwards and Javadi, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to lend a voice of support to House Bill 4083.

Oregon courts often serve as a critical point of intervention for individuals whose unmet behavioral health needs lead to involvement in the civil or criminal justice system. We see the effects of unmet mental health care needs in the criminal justice system as individuals are found unable to aid and assist in their own defense due to mental health issues, in the civil commitment system when individuals are subject to involuntary commitment, or in post-conviction settings with individuals who resolved their criminal charges through participation in a treatment court.

We depend on the behavioral health system to care for individuals who come into contact with the courts. Not only do judges and court staff rely on behavioral health professionals to provide treatment, therapy, and services to individuals within various court processes, behavioral health professionals are also a voice to ensure that courts are aware of the challenges, considerations, and needs of court-involved individuals.

We support efforts to ensure a well-functioning behavioral health workforce and believe this measure is a step towards that goal.