



VANESSA CORNWALL

Intergovernmental Relations Officer
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DATE: February 3, 2026
TO: House Committee on Behavioral Health
FROM: Vanessa Cornwall, Lane County Intergovernmental Relations Officer
RE: HB 4115, Relating to Healthcare Providers

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

Lane County respectfully submits testimony in support of HB 4115.

We support the intent of this bill to reduce unnecessary administrative burden while maintaining appropriate safeguards for clients and communities. In practice, repeated background checks are both an administrative strain for employers and a significant source of stress for staff. This is particularly true for peer support specialists. Peers bring lived experience into their roles—experience that may include past involvement with the criminal legal system. While that history has already been reviewed and deemed acceptable through previous background checks, each new check requires peers to re-explain and defend the same past events. We have seen qualified peers decline promotions or advancement opportunities because they fear reopening that process, even when nothing in their record has changed. This undermines workforce stability and advancement at a time when behavioral health systems are already stretched thin.

To address this, Lane County would recommend a friendly amendment—either in this session if feasible, or for consideration in the long session—to clarify that when an employee has previously passed a background check, and no new offenses appear in a subsequent check, the employee should not be required to undergo repeated questioning about historical offenses that were already reviewed and cleared.

Today, each background check is treated as entirely new, even when it produces identical results. Eliminating this redundancy would reduce stress for workers and remove unnecessary administrative burden for state agencies, without compromising safety. If no new information appears between background checks, that should be sufficient.

Lane County also appreciates the provisions related to CCO credentialing, particularly the prohibition on requiring a new credentialing application when a provider changes employers. This change reflects the realities of today's workforce and will help reduce gaps in care caused by administrative delays.

As HB 4115 is implemented, it will be critical that the Oregon Health Authority provide clear, proactive communication to providers regarding when background checks are required and how providers can confirm that a new check is not needed, like when they are still within the three-year validity window. Similarly, coordinated care organizations



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should provide clear guidance on the process for transferring a provider to a new employer when credentialing is no longer required under a new tax ID.

Lane County believes HB 4115 strikes an important balance between accountability, efficiency, and workforce retention, and we urge your support.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY VANESSA CORNWALL, LANE COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS OFFICER