Dear Chair Sanchez, Vice-Chairs Nelson and Morgan, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shannon Nelson, and I live in Eugene. I'm writing to express my strong support for House Bill 4115, a necessary step forward in strengthening Oregon's behavioral health workforce.

Every day in this state, there are people ready to serve—and people in desperate need of care. But too often, the systems that should connect them are stalled by unnecessary delays. Paperwork, redundancy, and outdated processes are holding back capable, trained professionals who could be making a difference right now.

What this bill does is simple but profound: it brings common sense to credentialing. It says to the people standing ready to work in clinics, hospitals, schools, and community settings: "We believe in your training. We trust in your preparation. Let's get you to the frontlines where you're needed."

This isn't just a matter of efficiency—it's a matter of impact. There are real human costs to delay. Missed moments of intervention. Families trying to navigate mental health crises without support. Providers burning out while waiting for backup that's stuck in the licensing queue.

My partner is a TIP (Trauma Intervention Program) volunteer. I've watched him leave at all hours—into the night, in storms, on holidays—to be with people at their worst moments. Scenes of overdose, suicide, sudden loss. He comes home changed, every time. He tells me what we already know: the earlier we intervene, the fewer of those doorsteps he'll have to stand on.

This bill will save lives. It will mean fewer crisis scenes, fewer families told they're too late, fewer communities breaking under the weight of untreated need.
I urge you to pass HB 4115—not just as policy, but as a promise: that we are building a system where help arrives when it's needed, not after it's too late.

Sincerely,

Shannon Nelson
Eugene, Oregon