



## Testimony in Support of HB 4115

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

On behalf of the Tri-County Behavioral Health Providers Association, we respectfully urge your support for House Bill 4115, which makes practical and much-needed improvements to Oregon's behavioral health workforce system.

Oregon continues to face a severe behavioral health crisis, and workforce shortages remain one of the greatest barriers to expanding access to care. Providers across the state are struggling with unfilled positions, administrative delays, and reimbursement challenges that limit their ability to serve individuals and families in need.

HB 4115 addresses these challenges in a thoughtful and balanced way. By extending the validity of background checks to three years and allowing approved checks to be portable across care settings, the bill reduces unnecessary duplication while maintaining appropriate safety standards. These changes will help qualified behavioral health professionals enter and remain in the workforce more efficiently.

The bill also improves transparency by requiring clearer communication about when new background checks are required, reducing confusion for both providers and agencies navigating complex employment and credentialing systems.

In addition, HB 4115 addresses longstanding reimbursement delays by requiring coordinated care organizations to reimburse behavioral health providers retroactively to the date a successful Medicaid enrollment application is submitted. This provision supports financial stability for providers who are often delivering care before final enrollment steps are complete.

Taken together, these reforms reduce administrative burden, support workforce retention, and help ensure timely access to behavioral health services for Oregonians who need them most.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to strengthening Oregon's behavioral health system.

Respectfully submitted,

**The TCBHPA Board of Directors**