



OREGON COUNCIL FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

February 4, 2026

Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chair Isadore and Skarlatos and Members of the Committee,

Oregon Council for Behavioral Health (OCBH) is the nonprofit trade association representing more than 60 provider organizations that serve individuals living with the chronic diseases of addiction and mental illness. It is likely the behavioral health providers in your districts are members of OCBH.

We write to you today in opposition to Section 15 of HB 4139, which would redirect a portion of Oregon's cannabis tax revenue away from behavioral health and addiction recovery services. This provision would reduce funding dedicated to Behavioral Health Resource Networks by an estimated \$18 million per biennium, resulting in an approximate 10 percent reduction in available BHRN funding statewide.

This revenue is not supplemental funding for this system—it is foundational. Providers across the state have built programs, hired staff, and expanded services based on the understanding that this funding would be stable and dedicated to treatment, outreach, housing supports, and recovery services.

Behavioral health providers across Oregon are currently facing instability due to federal cuts under H.R. 1, which are already straining workforce capacity and service availability. A diversion of funds would further disrupt already-fragile access points for individuals seeking care.

OCBH recognizes the importance of addressing illegal marijuana activity in Oregon. However, this proposal creates a false choice between enforcement and treatment. Oregon can pursue effective enforcement strategies without weakening the behavioral health system that voters explicitly asked the state to build. Redirecting funds away from BHRNs risks repeating past policy decisions that left Oregon near the bottom nationally in access to behavioral health care.

Section 15 of HB 4139 would reduce dedicated behavioral health funding by \$18 million per biennium, and destabilize behavioral health access statewide.

OCBH urges the Legislature to reject Section 15 of HB 4139,

Heather Jefferis
Executive Director
Oregon Council for Behavioral Health