



OREGON COUNCIL FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

February 4, 2026

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee,

Oregon Council for Behavioral Health (OCBH) is a nonprofit trade association representing more than 60 provider organizations across Oregon that deliver both substance use disorder and mental health treatment services. Our members provide care in a wide range of community-based and residential settings and serve individuals with complex behavioral health needs.

OCBH writes in opposition to SB 1583, and concurs with many of the concerns shared in the oral testimony at the hearing on February 4th.

We appreciate the intent and agree that the Criminal Justice Commission has strong grantmaking capacity and brings an important perspective, particularly in centering communities most impacted by the criminal justice system. However, we are concerned with advancing this proposal in the current session. The legislation proposes a shift from allocating resources to providers, to granting resources to counties.

Behavioral health providers and system partners would benefit from having a seat at the table to thoughtfully examine how such a change could impact access to care, provider capacity, and service continuity. At this time, we do not believe there is sufficient opportunity in the remaining weeks of session to give this proposal the detailed consideration necessary to legislate a transition of this scale without risking unintended consequences for the behavioral health system.

We also want to note the broader context in which this bill is being considered. 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 change at this point, without careful consideration, could disrupt already-fragile access points for individuals seeking care.

OCBH would welcome the opportunity to engage in a more robust, inclusive conversation about transitioning this grant to the CJC. With current time constraints, we lack the time to ensure we prevent disruptions in access to care.

For these reasons, OCBH respectfully opposes SB 1583 as currently proposed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Heather Jefferis
Executive Director
Oregon Council for Behavioral Health