

Submitter: Sabrina F Garcia
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4139

House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade
Oregon State Legislature

RE: Opposition to HB 4139 (2026)

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 4139 (2026). While this bill aims to regulate cannabis and industrial hemp derived cannabinoid products through expanded inspections, law enforcement involvement, and a new retail tax, its unintended impact on Oregon's already fragile behavioral health system cannot be ignored. Legislative summaries confirm that the bill adds new sales taxes, unannounced OLCC and ODA inspections, and mandatory law-enforcement accompaniment for regulatory actions.

I speak as an enrolled tribal member and someone representing rural communities, where systems are fractured, siloed, and chronically under-resourced. Rural tribal families feel the gaps in behavioral health access more acutely than almost anyone in Oregon.

I also speak as a person in long-term recovery. Had the holistic, coordinated behavioral health services we are trying to build today existed when I was fighting to get sober, my path might have been far less painful and dangerous. Recovery affects more than one person its impact reaches our children and future generations.

Policies that destabilize behavioral health funding risk taking that hope away from thousands of Oregonians.

Oregon currently ranks 50th in the nation in terms of access to mental health and substance use treatment. When you are lost, every policy shock hits harder.

Providers cannot withstand additional administrative strain or funding instability without risking program losses, reduced access, and longer waitlists.

I want to be clear: I support proper funding for law enforcement. Communities, especially rural ones, depend on police being adequately resourced. But law enforcement funding cannot come at the expense of behavioral health. Both systems are essential, both are underfunded, and both must be strengthened not pitted against each other. HB 4139's increased enforcement requirements risk pulling attention and resources away from behavioral health at the very moment Oregon is trying to repair it.

I am also a behavioral health provider. Every day I see hope in people's eyes because of recent investments and improved data systems that finally allow us to measure outcomes accurately. People are being housed, stabilized, reconnected with families, and supported into long-term recovery. These successes are real, and the numbers will soon show it. But this progress depends on stability and sustained investment not policies that create new pressures on an already overburdened

system.

Oregon is amid a complex system redesign under the Oregon Health Authority. Introducing new regulatory or financial disruptions now risks undoing years of hard-won progress. Weakening the foundation at this stage could create a crisis comparable to a slow moving natural disaster for Oregon communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose HB 4139 or amend it to ensure:

- No destabilizing impact on behavioral health funding
- No additional burden on a system already ranked 50th in access
- No interference with OHA's long-term reform work
- No harm to rural, tribal, or underserved communities

Oregon cannot afford new fractures in the behavioral health system at a time when we are finally seeing signs of hope.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to the well-being of all Oregonians.

Sincerely,
Sabrina Garcia
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