



**In Support of HB 4070-1
Updates to ORS 430 and 414 to reflect current terms and practice**

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

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP), representing community mental health programs and community developmental disabilities programs across the state, I am writing in support of HB 4070 with the -1 amendments.

This legislation is the culmination of the HB 4092 workgroup recommendations, which includes technical but important updates to ORS 414 and 430. These revisions are not new policy directions or program expansions. Rather they are clean-up and language updates intended to clarify responsibilities and align statutes with current practice in the public behavioral health system.

The -1 amendment removes Section 1, at the request of the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, and Sections 7 and 8, at the request of district attorneys and disability advocates, to allow more time for discussion with these system partners. We also updated additional terms that were missed in the original drafting.

Most importantly, this amendment makes a one-word technical correction to allow 23-hour crisis stabilization centers to operate and for the Oregon Health Authority to proceed with rulemaking that is currently stalled. The substitution of 'assess' with 'screen' makes a profound difference in the staffing required at crisis stabilization centers.

With the -1 amendments, we believe this bill revises the statutes responsibly and we look forward to working with system partners on more comprehensive changes to reflect current system realities in the next long session. We appreciate the committee's continued engagement and respectfully ask for your support.

Sincerely,

Cherryl L Ramirez

Cherryl L. Ramirez
Executive Director, AOCMHP