



February 5, 2026

TO: Chair Pham and members of the House Committee On Behavioral Health

FROM: Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager, Jessica
Pratt

RE: Support HB 4070 -1 and -4

Chair Pham and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties, representing Oregon's county governments, I am writing in strong support of HB 4070 to reduce administrative burden and increase efficiency in Oregon's behavioral health system.

Our thanks to past Chair Nosse and many of you who helped pass HB 4092 in 2024. AOC had a voting seat on the resulting workgroup which recommended the statutory changes on which HB 4070 is based.

County boards of commissioners are the Local Mental Health Authority and partner with the Oregon Health Authority to provide behavioral health services and supports that help our communities thrive and reduce avoidable state hospital stays and involvement with law enforcement and the courts.

Decades of accumulated state regulation has led to duplication and confusion of roles and responsibilities for publicly funded behavioral health care. This creates costly, avoidable inefficiencies and unnecessary distress to all involved. We need your help to provide the nimble, on-demand service we all expect.

HB 4070 is a step forward in the ongoing work of eliminating needless administrative burden on Oregon's public behavioral health system. The Association of Oregon Counties asks for your support for HB 4070 with the forthcoming committee amendment and we look forward to working with you and our partners next session to pass Section 1 of the base bill to bring ORS 426 back into alignment with ORS 430.

Thank you for partnering with counties to serve all of Oregon.

Jessica Pratt
Legislative Affairs Manager
Association of Oregon Counties