

February 18, 2026

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Walters and Reschke, and members of the Committee,

I submit this testimony in my personal capacity in strong support of SB 1507.

Oregon's critical infrastructure relies on stable revenue. Behavioral health systems, public health services, housing stabilization programs, schools, and community safety initiatives do not sustain themselves. As a Licensed Professional Counselor working in community mental health in Central Oregon, I see daily how these systems intersect. Even if it means my household paying slightly higher taxes, I recognize that a stable and adequately funded Oregon benefits everyone. A well-resourced state creates the conditions for mental health, economic participation, public safety, and long-term community stability.

SB 1507 would disconnect Oregon from certain federal tax provisions that disproportionately benefit large corporations and the wealthiest households. By opting to disconnect, Oregon retains significant revenue that would otherwise be lost through automatic conformity. In a constrained budget environment, that retained revenue determines whether behavioral health services, housing stabilization systems, and safety-net programs remain operational and accessible.

In my professional role, I work with individuals living with serious and persistent mental illness, substance use disorders, and complex trauma. Many of my clients are either housing insecure or at high risk of homelessness. Stable housing, accessible treatment, and predictable support systems are foundational to recovery. When funding becomes unstable, services are reduced, waitlists grow, staff turnover increases, and the individuals most in need experience disruptions in care. Those disruptions lead to higher long-term costs—in emergency services, hospitalizations, incarceration, and lost workforce participation—costs that far exceed the investments required for prevention and stabilization.

SB 1507 allows Oregon to retain revenue that would otherwise be lost through automatic conformity with federal tax provisions that disproportionately benefit the wealthiest households and large corporations. Oregon has the opportunity to prioritize maintaining investments that serve the broader community rather than shifting resources upward.

Housing stability and behavioral health access are foundational to long-term resilience. When we undermine the revenue base that supports these systems, we weaken Oregon's capacity to respond effectively to mental health crises, substance use challenges, and housing instability. SB 1507 represents a pragmatic step toward protecting essential services and maintaining the infrastructure that keeps communities functioning.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our community.

Sincerely,
Russell Hatch, LPC, CADC I