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On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4070

Testimony in Support of House Bill 4070 and the -A1 Amendments

My name is Salvador Amezola, CADC II, QMHA I, CGAC-R. I serve as Program Director for Residential and Outpatient Latino Services at BestCare. I am here today in strong support of House Bill 4070 and the -A1 amendments, which responsibly clarify and modernize Oregon's behavioral health statutes.

Eliminating unnecessary administrative burden and increasing system efficiency is long overdue. These changes are essential to supporting the behavioral health workforce, reducing system waste, and improving access to timely, equitable care for Oregonians.

The -A1 amendment appropriately supports the Oregon Health Authority in clarifying Oregon's existing, meaningful quality and consumer safety-informed standards for the delivery of mental health and substance use disorder services. This ensures that individuals receiving care through the Oregon Health Plan are served in accordance with Oregon's expectations for quality, accountability, and safety.

Oregon-based behavioral health providers and professionals licensed in Oregon can—and already do—deliver telehealth services effectively. Providers offer flexible service delivery models, including telehealth, outreach, and in-office care, allowing services to be tailored to the individual needs of those served. The -A1 amendment does not jeopardize telehealth access. Rather, the true barriers to telehealth are funding limitations and lack of access to technology or reliable cellular service.

Finally, the -A1 amendment strengthens Oregon's behavioral health workforce by ensuring services are delivered by providers who are licensed or based in Oregon. This approach supports local hiring, workforce stability, and accountability while expanding a skilled, Oregon-based behavioral health workforce to meet growing community needs.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge support for House Bill 4070 and the -A1 amendments.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.