



February 24, 2026

Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

In Support of HB 4070 – A1: Updates to ORS 430 and 414 to reduce administrative burden

Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Julie Ibrahim and I am the CEO of New Narrative, a nonprofit behavioral health and housing provider serving over 2,000 individuals each year with severe and persistent mental health conditions in the Portland metro region.

On behalf of New Narrative, I am writing in support of House Bill 4070 and the -A1 amendments, which clarify and modernize Oregon’s behavioral health statutes.

Eliminating unnecessary administrative burden and increasing efficiency is long overdue. Behavioral health providers across Oregon are facing significant workforce shortages and rising service demand. When regulatory language is outdated or processes are duplicative, it diverts time and resources away from clinical care and direct service. HB 4070 makes technical but important updates that align statute with current practice and reduce avoidable system friction.

The -A1 amendment supports the Oregon Health Authority in clarifying meaningful, quality-informed standards for mental health and substance use disorder service delivery. This ensures that individuals utilizing the Oregon Health Plan receive services that meet Oregon’s expectations for quality and safety.

Oregon-based behavioral health providers and professionals licensed in Oregon already deliver telehealth services alongside in-person and outreach-based care. These flexible delivery models allow providers to meet individuals where they are. This amendment does not jeopardize telehealth access. The primary barriers to telehealth remain funding limitations and access to reliable technology or connectivity.

The -A1 amendment strengthens clarity, supports quality and consumer safety, and reinforces Oregon’s behavioral health workforce by ensuring services are delivered by practitioners who are licensed or based in Oregon. Maintaining and expanding an Oregon-based workforce is essential to meeting the needs of the communities we serve.

New Narrative respectfully urges your support for HB 4070 and the -A1 amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie Ibrahim". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Julie Ibrahim, LPC
CEO