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February 23, 2026

Oregon Senate Committee on
Senator Lisa Reynolds, Chair
Oregon State Capital
900 Court Street
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Support for HB 4070 (A-Engrossed)

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

I am writing today in **strong support of House Bill 4070 and the -A1 amendments**. I appreciate the committee's ongoing commitment to strengthening Oregon's behavioral health system and ensuring that Oregonians can access timely, high-quality care.

The -A1 amendment represents a much-needed clarification and modernization of Oregon's behavioral health statutes. For providers across the state, the current regulatory structure includes duplicative and outdated requirements that create unnecessary administrative burden. Reducing this burden is long overdue. The -A1 amendment will increase efficiency, support an already strained workforce, and allow providers to direct more time and resources on patient care.

Importantly, the -A1 amendments support the Oregon Health Authority in clarifying Oregon's existing, meaningful, **quality- and safety-informed standards** for mental health and substance use disorder services. These clarifications will help ensure that individuals who rely on the Oregon Health Plan receive care consistent with Oregon's expectations for safety, accountability, and effectiveness.

It appears there may have been some misunderstanding about what the amendment does and does not do regarding telehealth. I want to be clear:

This amendment does not jeopardize telehealth services.

Oregon-based behavioral health providers, and practitioners licensed in Oregon, already deliver high-quality telehealth, outreach, and in-office services. These flexible care models are essential to meeting the diverse needs of the people we serve. The true barriers to telehealth access are **funding, technology availability, and reliable connectivity**, not workforce licensure requirements.

The -A1 amendment also strengthens Oregon's behavioral health workforce by ensuring that services are delivered by practitioners who are licensed in Oregon or work at a provider that meets criteria to hold a Certificate of Approval issued by the Oregon Health Authority. This approach helps maintain high standards of care while supporting the development and sustainability of an Oregon-based workforce—something our state urgently needs.

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In short, the -A1 amendment helps improve clarity, consistency, quality, and workforce stability across Oregon's behavioral health system. These changes support providers, improve access to equitable services, and ultimately benefit the thousands of Oregonians who rely on behavioral health care every day.

I respectfully urge your **yes** vote on HB 4070 and the -A1 amendment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback to improve our care delivery system. I look forward to working with you to build a healthier and safer Oregon.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Wig
Executive Director

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