



Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

RE: HB 4070

Good morning, Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Anderson & Members of the Committee:

My name is Nick Gallo, and I am the CEO of Morrison Child & Family Services. I am submitting written testimony today 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 and essential to supporting the behavioral health workforce, reducing system waste, and improving access to timely, efficient, and effective care.

The -A1 amendment supports OHA in clarifying Oregon's current meaningful quality and consumer safety informed standards for mental health and substance use disorder services delivery. This ensures Oregonians utilizing the Oregon Health Plan receive services that adhere to Oregon's expectations for quality and safety.

Oregon-based behavioral health providers and individuals licensed in Oregon can (and do!) deliver telehealth services. These providers offer a wide range of flexible care delivery models, including telehealth, outreach, and in-office services. This mix ensures providers can meet the individual needs of those they serve. This amendment would not jeopardize the delivery of telehealth services. The real barriers to telehealth access are funding and access to technology.

The -A1 Amendment not only ensures clarity, safety, and quality for consumers, it also supports Oregon's behavioral health workforce. OCBH supports efforts that ensure services are delivered by practitioners who are licensed or based in Oregon to ensure Oregonians are hired for these necessary jobs. The -A1 supports expanding an Oregon-based workforce.

Thank you for your time and your leadership in our state.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Gallo", written over a horizontal line.

Nick Gallo, CEO

Morrison Child & Family Services