



TO: Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs  
FROM: Dave Boyer, Managing Attorney, Disability Rights Oregon  
DATE: February 23, 2026  
RE: HB 4099 Support

Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs,

I am David Boyer, a retired combat Army veteran who deployed three times with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, former psychologist, and now the Managing Attorney of Disability Rights Oregon's Mental Health Rights Project. I submit this testimony on behalf of Disability Rights Oregon.

HB 4099 establishes a task force to respond to veterans in crisis, with the specific charge to report findings and recommendations to the Legislative Assembly. As the Taskforce conducts its work, protecting the privacy and choice of veterans to participate in any proposed program will be vitally important.

Too frequently, Disability Rights Oregon's clients call 911 for help while they are in a mental health crisis but instead of being greeted by medical professionals they are confronted with armed police that are ill equipped to respond to a mental health emergency. As the Task Force conducts its work and when this Committee considers its recommendations, we ask for your help in addressing this.

We urge the Committee to support HB 4099 and offer our support to the Task Force as it begins its work.

If you have any questions regarding DRO's position on this legislation, please call Hans Bernard or email him at [hans@growthconsulting.net](mailto:hans@growthconsulting.net).

#### About Disability Rights Oregon

Since 1977 Disability Rights Oregon has been the State's Protection and Advocacy System.<sup>1</sup> We are authorized by Congress to protect, advocate, and enforce the rights of people with disabilities under the U.S. Constitution and Federal and State laws, investigate abuse and neglect of people with disabilities, and "pursue administrative, legal, and other appropriate remedies".<sup>2</sup> We are also mandated to "educate policymakers" on matters related to people with disabilities.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See ORS 192.517.

<sup>2</sup> See 42 U.S.C. § 15041 et seq; 42 U.S.C. § 10801 et seq.

<sup>3</sup> See 42 U.S. Code § 15043(a)(2)(L).