



February 26, 2026

TO: Chair Reynolds and members of the Senate Committee On
Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

FROM: Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs
Manager, Jessica Pratt

RE: Support HB 4070A and the -A11 amendment

Chair Reynolds and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties, representing Oregon's county governments, I am writing in strong support of HB 4070A to reduce administrative burden and increase efficiency in Oregon's behavioral health system.

County boards of commissioners are the Local Mental Health Authority, which has the responsibility to plan, oversee and coordinate the local behavioral health safety net that helps our communities thrive and that reduces costly state hospital stays and involvement with the justice system. Counties are the local stewards of public funding, public services and public trust in our shared state-county services.

Decades of accumulated state regulation has led to duplication and confusion of roles and responsibilities for publicly funded behavioral health care, creating costly inefficiencies and distress to community members and the professionals who serve them. HB 4070A is an important step forward in the ongoing work of eliminating needless administrative burden on Oregon's public behavioral health system.

The Association of Oregon Counties asks for your support for HB 4070A and we are grateful to Chair Reynolds and Chair Pham for bringing forward the -A11 amendment to align our behavioral health telehealth regulations with those governing physical health and provide an essential guardrail for quality of care.

Thank you for partnering with counties to serve all of Oregon.

Jessica Pratt
Legislative Affairs Manager
Association of Oregon Counties