

Date:	June 17, 2025
To:	Co-Chair Kropf, Co-Chair Prozanski, Co-Vice Chair Mannix, Members of the Joint Addiction and Community Safety Response Committee
From:	Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager Tim Dooley
Subject:	HB 2005-1 Neutral

AOC was part of the initial workgroup that crafted many of the policies in HB 2005. AOC is neutral on this bill with the -1. The reason that AOC is neutral is that, while there are policy improvements that counties have sought and are in favor of, such as time limits on community restoration, we have substantial concerns about the implementation of this bill, absent robust funding for community mental health programs (CMHP). AOC has consistently maintained the position throughout this workgroup that a policy change that broadens the universe of individuals subject to civil commitment cannot be done without a commensurate investment in the CMHPs. Civil Commitment and Aid and Assist functions are not reimbursable by OHP, nor private insurance. Counties receive funding from OHA through the County Financial Assistance Agreement (CFAA). The funding for constructing new residential treatment facilities in HB 2059 is a valuable investment in infrastructure, but the systems require investment as well.

HB 2056 is this session's vehicle to fund CMHPs at a level that matches the gap identified in OHA's cost study required by HB 4092 from the 2024 session. While the funding gap for aid and assist community restoration is being addressed in HB 5025, the estimated \$4.8 million gap for the 2024 civil commitment caseload has not yet been filled. Caseloads have continued to grow since 2024 and HB 2005 will further expand that population, and double the days, from 14 to 28, that can be offered for diversion. CMHPs, as payors of last resort, will pick up the tab for these increased hospital stays for some of this population, which reduces the capacity to provide other upstream services, as funds must be moved from other service elements.

Updates to Oregon's civil commitment standards, and the aid and assist process are long overdue. The statutory changes will be helpful to those in need of services, but had previously fallen through the cracks of a system that didn't have the appropriate standards. However, we are not setting the system up for success if we do not include the funding required to implement them.