



ALEX CUYLER

Intergovernmental Relations Manager
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DATE: March 5, 2024
TO: Senate Committee on Rules
FROM: Alex Cuyler, Lane County Intergovernmental Relations Manager
RE: HB 4023, relating to behavioral health

Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Knopp, and members of the Committee:

Lane County urges support for HB 4023. We have reviewed the dash A3 and the A6 amendments to this measure and ask that you move either of these amendments into the measure and move the bill to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.

Lane County has spent a great deal of the 2024 session following the evolution of HB 4002. Early on we recognized that there were a series of related bills that needed to also pass in order for local government to most effectively work to implement HB 4002. HB 4023 was one of these measures.

Here is an excerpt from our Board Chair, Commissioner Trieger, on that issue highlighting this measure from a 2/23/204 letter to the Joint Committee on Addictions and to Senate and House leadership:

In parallel with the ask of our commitment to designing a county-level deflection program, I would underscore our need for appropriations and policy assistance from the Legislature and a much deeper sense of partnership from the Oregon Health Authority. Key bills pending before the legislature as I write include HB 4023 to speed the siting and construction of residential treatment facilities, HB 4071 which is an important step in addressing statewide healthcare workforce challenges, and HB 4092 which authorizes a vitally important caseload analysis for Community Mental Health Programs at the county level. Likewise, county governments and other provider of community behavioral health services will need clarity on the siting, licensure, liability, and reimbursement rates to ensure a sound business model for the Crisis Stabilization Center and other crisis stabilization services. And finally, we will need additional funding to close our final capital construction gap.

Lane County has previously used super siting authority in developing facilities for homeless individuals and our experience with that process bolster our support for HB 4023. Super siting avoids an otherwise cumbersome land use process and locally we paired it with a “good neighbor agreement” that has further ensured that the procedure works well.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY ALEX CUYLER