

AOC ASSOCIATION OF OREGON COUNTIES

March 25, 2025

TO: Chair Nosse and members of the House Committee On Behavioral Health & Health Care

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

RE: Support HB 2059-2

Dear Chair Nosse and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties, representing Oregon's county governments, I am writing to share our support for the next phase of creating statewide residential behavioral health treatment capacity, prioritizing both the highest levels of residential treatment facilities and geographic equity, in line with the identified regional needs in the Oregon Health Authority's 2024 report.

County boards of commissioners are the Local Mental Health Authority, partnering with the Oregon Health Authority to provide behavioral health services and supports that help our communities thrive and reduce avoidable state hospital stays and involvement with law enforcement and the courts.

The lack of needed residential treatment across the state means individuals are getting stuck in our hospital emergency departments, jails and the Oregon State Hospital, at great expense to state and local governments and exacerbating individuals' mental health challenges. The investment in HB 2059-2 to right-size Oregon's residential treatment capacity cannot wait.

The Association of Oregon Counties is grateful for the Governor's and your leadership in this critical work and we ask for your support HB 2059-2. Thank you for partnering with counties to serve all of Oregon.

Jessica Pratt
Legislative Affairs Manager
Association of Oregon Counties