



Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Nelson and Javadi, and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Tri-County Behavioral Health Providers Association (TCBHPA), we are writing to express our firm and unwavering support for HB 2059, including the -2 amendments, which proposes the allocation of \$90 million toward the creation of additional licensed residential treatment facilities in Oregon.

Oregon is currently facing a critical shortage of residential treatment options for individuals with mental health and substance use disorders. Additional residential treatment facilities are essential for individuals who are unable to aid and assist in their own defense due to underlying behavioral health conditions, enabling them to transition safely from the Oregon State Hospital into less restrictive environments. These facilities are also indispensable for managing outpatient civil commitments—an increasing trend in our state—as the state hospital regularly reaches full capacity. Without adequate community-based resources, individuals in need of care are often left with no choice but to remain at the state hospital, incarcerated in jails, boarded in emergency rooms, or left to survive on the streets.

In recent legislative sessions, Oregon has made important strides toward addressing this issue by directing substantial funding toward building community-based behavioral health infrastructure. HB 2059 with the -2 amendments builds on this momentum and takes the critical next step toward significantly increasing the availability of residential treatment placements. Failure to pass this legislation will only exacerbate the ongoing crisis, resulting in longer wait times for treatment, worsened outcomes, and in the most tragic cases, preventable deaths. Additionally, the lack of access to appropriate care continues to place undue strain on our hospitals, law enforcement, and local communities.

The need for expanded residential treatment options in Oregon is undeniable. The passage of HB 2059, with the -2 amendments, provides a clear and actionable path to address this urgent need and improve the lives of thousands of Oregonians facing behavioral health challenges. We strongly urge your support for this critical legislation, which represents a vital investment in the well-being of individuals, families, and communities across the state.

Sincerely,

TCBHPA Board of Directors

