



**Testimony in support of HB 3123 – Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Demonstration Extension**

February 26, 2021

Dear Chair Sanchez and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP), I would like to express our enthusiastic support for HB 3123, to extend Oregon's Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) demonstration through 2023. The enhanced federal match, together with the state general fund match, is critical for CCBHCs to retain workforce in order to increase access to care and nimbly respond to the pandemic.

AOCMHP's membership includes nine of the twelve Oregon CCBHCs, representing all geographic areas of the state. The CCBHC model, with no wrong door, services outside the four walls, and embedded physical health care within the behavioral health center, works for every participating community, regardless of the population size.

Since the eight-state demonstration project began in 2017, our CCBHCs have shown great progress in integrating care, expanding capacity to serve more people, increasing behavioral health and physical health screenings to prevent bad health outcomes and in reducing costs by decreasing emergency department visits and state hospital admissions.

We believe CCBHCs are the future of the behavioral health delivery system and we urge you to support HB 3123.

Sincerely,

Cherryl L. Ramirez  
Director, AOCMHP