



Office of Representative Emerson Levy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2/29/2024

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Rep. Emerson Levy Votes Yes on Measure 110 Reform & Commends Deschutes County on Commitment to Mental Health and Addiction Services

Deschutes County Stabilization Center granted \$1.5 million and BestCare \$525,000 to expand behavioral health treatment capacity in Central Oregon.

SALEM, Ore. - Today, HB 4002 passed on the House Floor 51-7. Representative Emerson Levy proudly voted yes on the treatment-first plan brought forward by the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety.

“The voters were clear when they passed Measure 110: getting people into recovery is the top priority. But, what we’ve experienced since the implementation of Measure 110 is unacceptable,” said **Rep. Emerson Levy (D-Central Oregon)**. “HB 4002 is a comprehensive plan to address our state's drug and addiction problem and gives our law enforcement the tools they need to confiscate hard drugs and get people off the street and into recovery.”

“Deschutes County has great reason to be proud of their statewide model of deflection services through the Deschutes County Stabilization Center. We have been doing this work for a long time, and we are set up and ready to use these dollars” says Levy.

The Deschutes County Stabilization Center (DCSC) is a collaborative project between the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office and Deschutes County Health Services and offers the community a 24/7 crisis stabilization center. Holly Harris, the DCSC Behavioral Health Director, shared information about their services to the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety during an informational hearing in Salem.

“For about 9 years we have offered a jail diversion program that is embedded within our stabilization center,” said Harris. “It is designed to keep individuals who are struggling with substance abuse disorders and mental health conditions out of the criminal justice system. We also offer a place for law enforcement to voluntarily bring us people instead of the emergency department or jail. We have a very robust partnership with our law enforcement agencies, and we have become reliant upon each other to do this work well. About 20% of the people we serve are already diverted from the criminal justice system. We also have a really wonderful

relationship with our DAs office. Through our aid and assist work, we have tackled these issues together,”

Deschutes County District Attorney, Steve Gunnels, affirmed a dedication to fulfilling the obligations outlined in the bill when it was before the Joint Committee. After learning about its passage today, DA Gunnels said: “Central Oregonians expect their government to work for them and the first duty of government is public safety. This bill improves public safety by providing a real path to treatment for drug users and real accountability if that opportunity is not pursued. HB 4002 is the result of the excellent working relationships and communication between our legislators and our public health and public safety officials. Deschutes County will be a safer, more healthy place to live because of that collaboration.”

Through HB 5204, the budget companion bill to HB 4002 which also passed on the House Floor today, the Deschutes County Stabilization Center was granted \$1.5 million to expand services. Through the same bill, BestCare, the largest substance abuse disorder treatment provider in central Oregon was awarded \$525,000 to expand detox capacity in Central Oregon.

Rick Treleaven, the CEO at BestCare, offered this context when he appeared before the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety: “Our belief is that the deflection services that you are envisioning will really fit into our system of care that exists, and we’ll build upon it. Best Care already provides the full range of treatment services: from outreach, harm reduction, rapid access to MAT, intensive outpatient detox, residential, the whole system is there. We have a long-established collaboration with Deschutes County. We don’t give up on people.”

HB 4002 allows for treatment instead of jail time, waives all fees and fines, and provides for early and automatic expungement.

Bend Chief of Police, Mike Krantz, is also supportive of the bill: “HB 4002 provides law enforcement with essential tools necessary for us to fulfill our commitment to community safety. Concurrently, it fortifies collaboration between law enforcement and Deschutes County Health Services. The robust partnership among the Deschutes County Stabilization Center, Community Crisis Response Teams, and local law enforcement is pivotal in shaping the envisioned deflection program for the future of Deschutes County.” says Krantz.

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