



Senate Majority Office

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Oregon Senate Democrats Fund Critical Behavioral Health Crisis Mobile Response System

SALEM, Ore. - Senate Democrats have passed [House Bill 2757](#) and [House Bill 3426](#) to urgently and effectively address the state's behavioral health crisis. The 9-8-8 hotline and mobile crisis response are key services Oregonians in need, including folks living on our streets. 9-8-8 and mobile crisis response provide real time care and response to people experiencing behavioral health crises.

HB 2757 provides a stable funding source for Oregon's two 9-8-8 call centers and helps to build out the mobile crisis response system so that services are uniformly available 24/7 across the state. Importantly, HB 2757:

- Establishes the 9-8-8 Trust Fund, which can braid together funds from various streams of one-time and ongoing federal and state funding. This back-end coordination of funds will help the 9-8-8 system run smoothly.
- Establishes a fee on telecommunications similar to the fee for 9-1-1.
- The fee is restricted to funding our call centers and some reliable baseline funding for mobile crisis. Both are essential core functions that cannot wax and wane with the economy.
- Creates a multi-stakeholder advisory group to guide implementation and provide oversight as the 9-8-8 system develops.

"Mobile crisis services and the 9-8-8 crisis hotline are key to building a responsive, impactful behavioral health system and ending the humanitarian crisis on our streets," said **Senate Majority Leader Kate Lieber (D - Beaverton and SW Portland)**. "These services are going to make a huge difference for every community in every corner of our state, protecting Oregonians' health, safety, and well-being and saving emergency resources."

HB 3426 requires 9-8-8 crisis hotline centers to have policies and train staff on serving firefighters and other first responders. First responders face some of the highest rates of suicide in Oregon, and across the nation. In fact, [more police and firefighters die by suicide than die on the job](#). To address this disparity, it is vital that first responders have access to trauma informed services, delivered by providers who understand their unique challenges. HB 3426 will ensure that our statewide crisis line has trained and qualified staff ready to assist our emergency response personnel.

“We know our first responders have unique challenges and this bill will ensure they get special support when they are in crisis,” said **Senator James I. Manning Jr. (D - Eugene & Veneta), who carried the bill on the Senate floor.** “These heroes show up for us every day, at great cost to their well-being. It’s time Oregon showed up for them with the support and services they need.”

In 2020, Congress designated 9-8-8 as the new three-digit crisis line for nationwide use, replacing the 10-digit toll-free number that connected callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Network. In 2021, the Oregon Legislature partially enacted 9-8-8 legislation, creating two 9-8-8 call centers based in Oregon and with partially expanding mobile crisis response teams across the state. HB 2757 and HB 3426 move Oregon forward, completing the line’s implementation.

Expanding access to mental healthcare and crisis services is a key component of [Senate Democrats’ 2023 Oregon Works agenda](#).

HB 3426 and HB 2757 are some of the hundreds of bills that Senate Democrats rescued by negotiating an end to the Senate Republican walkout. Thanks to Senate Democrats showing up, doing their jobs, and delivering results for the people of Oregon, they now move to the Governor’s desk for consideration.

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