



Oregon Family Support Network

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Testimony in support of HB 2304 – Adding Peer, Family, Youth Support Specialists to Traditional Health Workers Commission

February 1, 2017

Dear Chair Greenlick and Members of House Health Care Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Family Support Network, Inc., (OFSN) I would like to express our support for HB 2304 in acknowledgement and validation of the critical role of peers in Oregon's health care system.

OFSN hires numerous Family Peer Support Specialists around the state to work directly with parents who are raising children and youth experiencing serious mental and behavioral health challenges. Family Peer Support Specialists partner alongside parents in navigating a very complex system of services, providing them support, teaching skills, and increasing their odds at achieving their vision of the future, which is more hopeful and reflective of the strengths they have as a family.

We look forward to increasing the inclusion of the role of peer support throughout the span of healthcare services and supports, and feel that this bill will also ensure they are well understood and compensated by all payers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2304.

Sincerely,

Sandy Bumpus, Executive Director
Oregon Family Support Network