

January 24, 2019

TO: Rep. Mitch Greenlick, Chair  
House Committee on Health Care  
FR: Beckie Child, MSW ABD  
Former interim Chair of Oregon Hospital Advisory Board  
RE: HB 2215: In support

I strongly support passage of HB 2215 and the amendment proposed by Disability Rights Oregon.

HB 2215 acknowledges that our mental health facilities should be safe and supportive environments where a patient may receive the treatment, supports and security to heal. Safety standards in institutions are critical, but safety at the price of patients' dignity is not acceptable.

This bill was proposed based off work that OSH did to comply with new regulations from the Joint Commission to reduce suicides in institutions. While reducing suicides in institutions is a noble idea and one that nearly all people would support, some of the requirements also jeopardized patients' rights to privacy and dignity. Reducing suicide while depriving people of privacy and dignity may also raise some patients' risk for suicide.

I commend Oregon State Hospital for taking the step to create and implement an administrative rule to protect patients' right to privacy, but I believe that the right to privacy should be codified in statute.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,



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