



AOCMHP Testimony on SB 762

Extended Holds for Individuals during Pre-Civil Commitment Process

March 18, 2019

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of Senate Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP), we support SB 762 to extend hold periods up to 15 judicial days, with added language that the upper limit of days held would be the exception and not the rule. For some individuals who may have substance use-related complications or other health challenges, the extended hold would give community mental health program staff more time to find the best local treatment, housing, and supports if it is possible for the individual to remain in the community. We also agree with the added language about the individual's right to obtain counsel and request a hearing within five days of the hold to determine whether or not there is probable cause to detain the individual for mental health treatment.

We understand concerns that the extended hold period may create capacity issues for hospitals and we certainly can relate to concerns about capacity without additional resources. We look forward to continued discussions with system partners to find solutions that improve the civil commitment process.

Sincerely,

Cherryl L. Ramirez

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Director, AOCMHP