



AOCMHP Testimony on SB 763

Civil Commitment Criteria Expansion

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 763 to expand civil commitment criteria by allowing consideration of dangerousness to self or others in the near future, within 30 days, and in the recent past, including assessing frequency and severity, to make civil commitment determinations. We believe this would not initiate many more additional civil commitments and that a small subset of people under Aid & Assist orders should actually be civilly committed because of the acuity of their mental illness.

One caveat to our support is that any expansion of civil commitment must not detrimentally affect resources for mental health and addictions treatment, housing, and other supports for community-based care and recovery.

Sincerely,

Cheryl L. Ramirez

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Director, AOCMHP