

Kate Brown  
Governor



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Senate Committee on Mental Health  
Testimony in support of SB 1553  
February 5, 2020, at 1pm, Hearing Room A

Chair Roblan, Vice-Chair Boles, and members of the Committee,

The Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW), and the Oregon Commissions on Asian and Pacific Islanders (OCAPIA), Black Affairs (OCBA), and Hispanic Affairs (OCHA) urge the committee to support SB 1553, which requires the Oregon Health Authority to identify, assess and prepare a report on regulatory and policy barriers to effective and timely behavioral health treatment for individuals with co-occurring disorders. This bill will ultimately help improve our ability to more effectively address mental health issues in Oregon.

Co-occurring disorders, or dual disorders, refers to an individual having one or more substance abuse disorders and one or more psychiatric disorders. Treating individuals with co-occurring disorders requires an integrated treatment plan and can be very challenging. According to Oregon's Department of Human Services (DHS), an estimated 69,420 Oregonians have both a serious psychological disturbance and an alcohol or substance abuse or dependency disorder. DHS reports that 49.2% those living with co-occurring disorder receive no treatment. These individuals are twenty times more likely to be hospitalized and use emergency services; they also have an increased risk of homelessness, incarceration, and early death

(see <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/AMH/CoOccurring%20Resources/Fact%20Sheet.pdf>)

The prevalence and impacts of co-occurring disorders indicate the critical need to address this issue. The Oregon Advocacy Commissions urge the committee to support SB 1553.

Sincerely,

Maura Kelly  
OCFW Commissioner

OCAPIA Co-Chair

OCBA

Robin Morris Collin  
OCFW Chair

OCAPIA Co-Chair

OCHA Chair

**OR Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs**  
Hussein Al-Baiaty, Co-Chair  
Mohamed Alyajouri, Co-Chair  
Bennie Moses Mesubed, Vice Chair  
Legislative members:  
Senator Michael Dembrow  
Representative Carla Piluso

**OR Commission on Black Affairs**  
Jamal T. Fox, Chair  
Lawanda Manning, Vice Chair  
Legislative members:  
Representative Janelle Bynum

**OR Commission on Hispanic Affairs**  
Irma Linda Castillo, Chair  
Dr. Daniel López-Cevallos, Vice Chair  
Legislative members:  
Vacant

**OR Commission for Women**  
Robin Morris Collin, Chair  
Kassandra Krifka, Vice Chair  
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