

I am a citizen of Oregon writing to voice my support for SB 187, a bill that would provide a clear definition for what it means to be dangerous to self or others and what should be considered in making that determination. The lack of a definition and clear direction from the law has real world consequences many suffering people in our city. My mother had a mental illness and lived most of her life in a state run mental facility. Fortunately that care was available for her.

At present I volunteer for a relief agency in downtown Portland serving the homeless and week after week see people coming in for food who are not in their right minds. Prior to Covid I was able to spend part of my time conversing with people as they were eating their lunch. The problem was that about half the people were incoherent. I'm sure that some of the problem was due to drugs, but others were just mental problems, as was confirmed to me by full time workers who got to know the people better. And many of these people are not willing to get help on their own. I personally know someone who currently has a family member living on the streets with schizophrenia and not able to understand his need for help.

It's just plain sad that people like this just have to stay on the streets. Please vote yes on SB 187.