



OREGON PSYCHIATRIC
PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATION

Date: February 17, 2021

To: The Honorable Chair Tawna Sanchez
The Honorable Vice-Chair Rob Nosse
The Honorable Vice-Chair Cedric Hayden
Members of the House Behavioral Health Committee

From: Maya Lopez, MD
Daniel Nicoli, DO
Oregon Psychiatric Physicians Association

RE: Position statement on HB 2980, Funding for Peer Respite Services

Chair Sanchez, Vice Chairs and members of the House Behavioral Health Committee:

The Oregon Psychiatric Physicians Association (OPPA), a district branch of the American Psychiatric Association, was established in 1966. OPPA serves as the organization for Oregon's medical doctors specializing in psychiatry who work together to ensure effective treatment for persons with mental illness, including substance use disorders, and compassion for them and their families.

OPPA supports HB 2980, which would increase funding for peer respite services at certain sites throughout the state. Peer support is an essential component of recovery-oriented systems of care. It offers advantages in outreach and engagement, provision of hope, coaching and modeling, recovery skill building, and system navigation. Peer support services have been found to enhance outcomes in a wide variety of service settings and programs.

Peer support personnel should have training appropriate to the level of service they are providing and receive appropriate payment for those services, which are an important component of the comprehensive continuum of care.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. We urge your support of this bill.

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