



HB2542 Testimony
1/31/2023

"Good evening, Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and members of the Committee. My name is Alison Noice and I'm here to speak in support of House Bill 2542 regarding requirements of accreditation for substance use disorder treatment providers. This requirement was recommended by an advisory group that concluded its work in 2021, one in which I actively participated.

This group submitted a recommendation to the Oregon Health Authority that accreditation be required, but to only do so in ways that financially supported organizations, reduced administrative burden, and would not disproportionately impact rural, culturally specific, or tribal organizations. The group outlined concrete and viable steps to do so. Those recommendations, and the participants in that workgroup, are submitted for the record.

One critical element of this recommendation is the concept of "recognition". This is a process where an accredited organization is recognized by its licensing authority as competent and compliant. Recognition is a means of acknowledging state standards are met while not duplicating burden of state-specific certification and licensing audits and reporting requirements. Precedent for this exists in many states already: [State Recognition | The Joint Commission](#)

Oregon's SUD provider network has struggled in the 18 months since these recommendations were submitted. As an Executive Director of one of Oregon's oldest and largest SUD providers, I speak with direct experience of this. And, I believe in the value of accreditation.



Today's commitment to improve this network--from state and local governments, health systems, and the broad community--is unprecedented. However, with visibility must come accountability to quality care and informed investments. This attention to our field comes amidst significant change to state leadership and to those charged with regulating our work. All at a time where network adequacy is paramount, where overdose deaths continue to rise, and where communities are increasingly outraged by the visible results of an inaccessible system. Through an accreditation requirement, we can link ourselves to national quality standards without waiting for administrative reform.

Adopting an accreditation requirement assures Oregon will have a system of care that is grounded in best practices, that aligns with national standards, and remains aligned as those standards improve over time. With so much need, at a time of significant upheaval, committing to an accreditation requirement will ensure Oregon starts and stays on a path to the highest quality of care.