

Submitter: Ted Donlan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2485

February 6, 2023

Representative Nosse, Chair

Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

Oregon State Capitol

Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 2485 - Support

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Goodwin, Nelson, and members of the Committee,

As an Associate Professor at the School of Social Work at Portland State University since 2006, I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2485.

During my many years of experience as an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work, I have personally observed the vital role social workers play in addressing some of the most pressing social, economic, and behavioral health issues facing Oregon. Our School ensures that the next generation of social workers has the tools and skills to support struggling Oregonians through mental health crises, substance abuse, housing instability and a host of other issues.

It is because of the importance of our work that I urge you to support HB 2485. Our School of Social Work is currently facing significant budgetary challenges that this bill will help to address by providing much-needed funds for additional scholarships, full-time faculty and staff appointments, as well as research, and program development. Due to a current budgetary freeze at PSU, we are unable to fill a number of faculty and staff positions, and this having a very negative impact on our ability to do our jobs. By increasing the number of stable faculty and staff appointments in my School, we can better support our students as they work towards their professional goals, and funding research and program development will help us continue to innovate and develop new approaches to the challenges facing our communities.

Your support for HB 2485 is an investment that will have a long-lasting and positive impact on our students, our faculty, and your constituencies. Our graduates play a key role especially in addressing the behavioral health challenges facing Oregon, and I am confident that this bill will help to ensure that our students will have the resources and support they need to succeed. By supporting the School of Social

Work at Portland State University, you are making a prudent investment in the future of our state and our nation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ted Donlan
Associate Professor
Portland State University School of Social Work