

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Goodwin, Vice-Chair Nelson, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2445, which authorizes the creation of an independent behavioral health certification entity to certify addiction peer support specialists to work with coordinated care organizations.

My Step-Dad has personally struggled with addiction and benefited from the support of peer specialists, I can attest to the transformative power of this type of care. Peer specialists bring a unique perspective and understanding to the treatment process, having faced similar challenges and overcoming them. They provide a level of empathy and encouragement that is invaluable to individuals in recovery.

By establishing a certification entity to oversee the training and qualifications of peer specialists, this bill will ensure that individuals seeking support receive the highest quality of care. It will also provide a clear pathway for peer specialists to enter the workforce, which will expand access to this type of care for those in need.

I urge you to support this important piece of legislation. The benefits of peer support are clear, and this bill will help ensure that it becomes an integral part of the addiction treatment landscape.

Sincerely,

*Devon Lawson-McCourt*

Vida, Oregon