
Testimony In Support of House Bill 2485

Requires Portland State University, subject to sufficient moneys being appropriated, to enhance state's capacity to educate public mental health and addiction treatment providers by July 1, 2028, by materially increasing number of graduates from relevant degree programs.

Submitted by Carissa Lund
Resident of Portland, Direct Support Professional
97209

Dear Representatives Nosse, Goodwin, and Nelson, and members of the House Committee of Behavioral Health & Health Care,

My name is Carissa Lund and I am submitting my written testimony today in support of House Bill 2485.

No matter which study you look at, Oregon has persistently had some of the highest rates of mental illness, substance misuse, and suicide in the nation over the years. This affects us all in many ways: financially, emotionally, spiritually, vocationally, and socially in the places we live, work, play, pray, and learn.

In 1961, the Oregon Legislature founded the Portland State University School of Social Work to meet the state's social work education needs. Today, sixty-two years later, it still remains the only public university in the state that trains clinicians to help Oregon citizens, one client at a time. The school and the students continue to be committed to the long-term wellness of the communities in which they also live, work, play, pray, and learn.

On a more personal note, passing this house bill is important to me because **Our community thrives when we support our collective mental health, and I want to make this as an actuality rather than a hope.** I am committed to ensuring my Friends who struggle with mental illness, my fellow citizens, and my community as a whole have the support they need to live a life worth living.

I urge you to support House Bill 2485. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Carissa Lund, February 7, 2023

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Submitted by Jeffrey P Phillips
Partner of Mental Health Clinician
97203

Dear Representatives Nosse, Goodwin, and Nelson, and members of the House Committee of Behavioral Health & Health Care,

My name is Jeffrey P Phillips and I am submitting my written testimony today in support of House Bill 2485.

No matter which study you look at, Oregon has persistently had some of the highest rates of mental illness, substance misuse, and suicide in the nation over the years. This affects us all in many ways: financially, emotionally, spiritually, vocationally, and socially in the places we live, work, play, pray, and learn.

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On a more personal note, passing this house bill is important to me because **I know my own wellness is dependent on the wellness of my neighbors and community**. I am committed to ensuring my aging parents, my neighbors like me that struggle with mental illness, my fellow citizens, and my community as a whole have the support they need to live a life worth living.

I urge you to support House Bill 2485. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey P Phillips, February 5, 2023

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Submitted by Jessica Nakashian
MSW candidate
97214

Dear Representatives Nosse, Goodwin, and Nelson, and members of the House Committee of Behavioral Health & Health Care,

My name is Jessica Nakashian and I am submitting my written testimony today in support of House Bill 2485.

No matter which study you look at, Oregon has persistently had some of the highest rates of mental illness, substance misuse, and suicide in the nation over the years. This affects us all in many ways: financially, emotionally, spiritually, vocationally, and socially in the places we live, work, play, pray, and learn.

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On a more personal note, passing this house bill is important to me because **My clients have been on waiting lists for months before I get the chance to see them. I am unable to support them with medical needs, and there is an extremely limited amount of resources for psychiatric consultation for medications in adults. Myself, my clients, and their families have faced extreme barriers in access to mental healthcare, especially since COVID began.** I am committed to ensuring my Community and their families, my fellow citizens, and my community as a whole have the support they need to live a life worth living.

I urge you to support House Bill 2485. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jessica Nakashian, February 5, 2023

This written testimony was created with help from an automated process created by Portland State University's chapter of Payment for Placements. This statement does not reflect the chapter's official stance, but is a product of P4P PDX's effort to help current and former students and the larger community engage in legislative processes relevant to ending the exploitation of internship/field labor.

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Submitted by Nadia Busekrus
MSW student at PSU
busekrus@pdx.edu, 97211

Dear Representatives Nosse, Goodwin, and Nelson, and members of the House Committee of Behavioral Health & Health Care,

My name is Nadia Busekrus and I am submitting my written testimony today in support of House Bill 2485.

No matter which study you look at, Oregon has persistently had some of the highest rates of mental illness, substance misuse, and suicide in the nation over the years. This affects us all in many ways: financially, emotionally, spiritually, vocationally, and socially in the places we live, work, play, pray, and learn.

In 1961, the Oregon Legislature founded the Portland State University School of Social Work to meet the state's social work education needs. Today, sixty-two years later, it still remains the only public university in the state that trains clinicians to help Oregon citizens, one client at a time. The school and the students continue to be committed to the long-term wellness of the communities in which they also live, work, play, pray, and learn.

On a more personal note, passing this house bill is important to me because **As a student I am unable to afford to attend school without family help, and struggling to manage it while also working full time to pay my living expenses. With more financial support provided to PSU, funds could be provided to students so that they can stop having to juggle even just one of the many things many of us have going on at the same time. The social work and other behavioral health professions workforce is absolutely essential for helping society to serve our most vulnerable and marginalized members, and workers need to be supported in receiving the education they need without having to burn themselves out to get it.** I am committed to ensuring my Community members, my fellow citizens, and my community as a whole have the support they need to live a life worth living.

I urge you to support House Bill 2485. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nadia Busekrus, February 7, 2023