

February 24, 2023

The Hon. Deb Patterson  
The Hon. Cedric Hayden  
Members of the Committee  
Senate Committee on Health  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Lines for Life Support for SB 432

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden and Members of the Committee:

I write on behalf of Lines for Life to offer support for SB 432's effort to better engage consumers in decision-making and planning for improving access to and delivery of behavioral health services in Oregon.

Lines for Life is a mental health nonprofit dedicated to preventing substance abuse and suicide and promoting mental wellness. We offer prevention, crisis intervention and a postvention services – reaching tens of thousands of Oregonians each year. Our crisis intervention team supports over 165,000 people in crisis annually, and our prevention services reach thousands more.

Lines for Life has long counted on the expertise of lived experience and consumer input in shaping our services. Data – and our extensive experience – make clear to us that delivery of behavioral health service is vastly improved by insight and experience from the people we are serving. We know that behavioral health supports and services are most effective when client- and patient-centered – and this begins with input and insight from consumers.

Lines for Life urges passage of SB 432 to authorize the Oregon Health Authority to develop an initiative designed to ensure true consumer input, from people who rely on the services who can offer critical insight in improving their delivery.

I am happy to answer further questions and offer the full support of Lines for Life for SB 432.

Sincerely,

*Dwight C. Holton*

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Dwight C. Holton  
Chief Executive Officer  
Lines for Life