

Providence Health & Services
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March 1, 2023

Honorable Chair Deb Patterson
Senate Health Care Committee
900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 432 – Support

Senator Patterson and members of the Committee:

Providence Health and Services operates the largest Behavioral Health program in the state, seeing more than 12,000 unique individuals across Oregon each month. We have a variety of programs across Oregon, and I'm proud to say that all our Oregon hospitals employ people with lived experience through our Better Outcomes through Bridges program (better known locally as BOB). We recognize the importance of peer engagement as part of the service array we provide to the individuals and families we care for, and we are committed to expanding those services where needed.

I am writing on behalf of Providence in support of SB 432, which seeks to expand consumer engagement and equitable participation in behavioral health services planning and policy development. I personally sit on many Councils and Task Forces, and I recognize the importance of consumer engagement in policy and program development—and we need a lot more of it. We support the development of the Consumer Technical Assistance Center as a way to increase consumer engagement and equitable participation across our behavioral health services.

Peer-run organizations play a critical role in supporting individuals with behavioral health needs. SB 432 will add resources to improve services and supports for these organizations so they can better serve their communities. It will also support efforts to engage and educate people with lived experience in the wonderful world of advocacy and government affairs, making them more effective in delivering the key messages we all need to hear if we are going to transform behavioral health in Oregon.

It's time to give people with lived experience a seat at the Oregon Health Authority and give them a meaningful seat at the table for change. Please support SB 432 and let's all work together to transform behavioral health care here in Oregon.

Robin Henderson, PsyD
Chief Executive, Behavioral Health
Providence Health & Services, Oregon



She/Her/Hers

Chief Clinical Officer, Work2BeWell



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