



Thursday, March 3, 2023

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Senate Health Care Committee,

We want to express our enthusiastic support for Senate Bill 432 and the -1 amendment. This bill aims to establish a community-based, consumer-run technical assistance center that will train and educate consumers of behavioral health services on the technical aspects of delivery systems and policy. This will expand and support consumer engagement and equitable participation in behavioral health services planning and policy development.

To improve the systems of care for Oregon Health Plan members, it is critical to hear from the people who experience these services, and the proposed center will support their involvement. This community-based technical assistance center will offer ongoing recruitment, training, mentoring, and information to those interested in participating and who might need more help understanding and orienting to health care organizational systems and terminology before they take the next steps in seeking care.

Additionally, the project will focus on offering technical assistance to peer-run organizations in the behavioral health field, who are critical partners in system transformation and improvement. This resource will aid them in improving their services and support for individuals, including those with co-occurring disorders, by providing guidance on good governance and effective nonprofit development and management.

The center will be led and staffed by individuals with lived experience accessing behavioral health services. They will leverage their insights into accommodations and strategies that helped them achieve recovery, resilience, advocacy, and self-advocacy successes in their own lives while living with disabilities, trauma challenges, discrimination, and stigma, and/or other diversity and inclusion hindrances.

Lastly, the center will establish a pipeline for knowledgeable and timely input from a diverse representation of consumers, including: BIPOC communities, the formerly incarcerated, individuals with co-occurring disorders, veterans, the LGBTQ community, people at different life stages, and those living in rural, urban, suburban, and other areas. This will further enhance our efforts to organize patient-centered services in Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration from the organizations included at the top of this letter.



CCO Oregon is a nonprofit, statewide member association for coordinated care organizations, hospitals, health systems, providers, and other system partners. CCO Oregon's vision is lower costs, increased access to quality care and health-related social needs, improved outcomes, and a sustainable workforce across the delivery system through the widespread implementation of the coordinated care model. CCO Oregon members convene to identify and advance evidence-based, stakeholder-driven strategies that support coordinated care and health transformation.