



Oregon AFSCME Support for SB 432

March 2, 2023

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden and Members of Senate Health Care,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 432 to ensure consumers of Oregon's mental health and behavioral health services are engaged in forming the state's policies on these services. Oregon AFSCME represents a growing number of members in behavioral health and mental health professions, including county mental health programs, community behavioral health clinics and residential treatment, crisis response, 988 and at the Oregon State Hospital.

Oregon AFSCME and our members recognize the importance of including the perspectives of patients or consumers in shaping our policies. We know that each of us bring different perspectives to the table and when we are not including all who are involved in the system, we miss providing the best possible outcomes for everyone. Having people with lived experience to share how processes worked or didn't work for them helps build trust in the system. It shines light on the real circumstances that people face in accessing care and provides the human aspect of the data that often drives our decision making.

We should be striving to make sure that all of our policy and rulemaking processes are inclusive of the people most directly impacted. Please pass SB 432.

In solidarity,

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