



This testimony is from Justice Advocates, a grassroots criminal justice reform organization in the Portland area, in support of SB 520.

We believe this bill will greatly improve the process of compassionate medical release for eligible Adults in Custody in Oregon. These are a few of the positive elements of the bill:

1. A new Medical Release Advisory Committee, composed of medically qualified members, will make the decisions about granting releasing.
2. Action on applications will be timely, considering that applicants will have a prognosis of less than a year to live or have a condition that makes it impossible to do routine activities of living, like eating, bathing, dressing, toileting, or moving from place to place.
3. The program will be well-publicized and accessible.
4. Care will be taken that no dangerous person will be released.
5. No one will be released without a placement outside prison to receive proper care.
6. Data on compassionate medical release will be tracked and reported.

All the members of the Senate Health Care Committee should vote yes on SB 520.