DRO | Disability Rights Oregon

TO: House Committee on Judiciary
FROM: Disability Rights Oregon
DATE: February 6, 2024
RE: Support of HB 4001

Dear Chair Kropf and Members of the House Committee on the Judiciary,

Disability Rights Oregon is supporting the passage of HB 4001 with some suggested changes

Disability Rights Oregon supports the operation of treatment courts as a way to divert individuals away from incarceration and towards rehabilitation. Drug and mental health courts have the potential to support people with disability in that way, but we feel that any taskforce involved in this issue should include advocates, and more importantly, people with lived experience in the court system.

Consequently, we support HB 4001, and we recognize that funding is a critical element to the establishment and continuity of these courts. We only ask that the bill increase the number of members to include two members with lived experience and one member from an organization that provides advocacy services to people with disabilities and/or people with addictions.

For these reasons, DRO supports HB 4001 with slight changes to the composition of the taskforce.

Thank you for your time.

About Disability Rights Oregon

511 SW 10th Avenue, Suite 200 / Portland, OR 97205
Voice: 503-243-2081 or 1-800-452-1694 / Fax: 503-243-1738 / **www.droregon.org**
Disability Rights Oregon is the Protection and Advocacy System for Oregon

Since 1977 Disability Rights Oregon has been the State's Protection and Advocacy System.[1] We are authorized by Congress to protect, advocate, and enforce the rights of people with disabilities under the U.S. Constitution and Federal and State laws, investigate abuse and neglect of people with disabilities, and "pursue administrative, legal, and other appropriate remedies".[2] We are also mandated to "educate policymakers" on matters related to people with disabilities.[3]

If you have any questions regarding DRO's position on this legislation, please call Meghan Moyer at 503-432-5777 or email her at mmoyer@droregon.org.

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[1] See ORS 192.517.
[2] See 42 U.S.C. § 15041 et seq; 42 U.S.C. § 10801 et seq.
[3] See 42 U.S. Code § 15043(a)(2)(L).

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