



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

February 7, 2025

The Honorable Representative Jason Kropf, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
900 Court Street NE, Hearing Room F
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: House Bill 2915

Chair Kropf and members of the committee, as the Deputy Director of for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC), I would like to provide written testimony in support of House Bill (HB) 2915.

What the Bill Does:

HB 2915 allows for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) to provide health records to the Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB) without written authorization from the adult in custody (AIC) if they are currently under the jurisdiction of the Board and conditionally released to the DOC.

Background Information:

When an individual under the PSRB's jurisdiction is conditionally released to the DOC, it has ongoing reporting responsibilities to the Board regarding the AIC's mental status, adherence to treatment protocols, and treatment progress. At minimum, the DOC is required to provide such progress reports two times a year, in order to keep the Board apprised of the ongoing appropriateness of the individual's conditional release to the DOC. Additionally, the DOC is required to provide status updates to the Board if there is significant change in the individual's mental status or if significant violations of the conditional release plan have occurred.

Currently, the DOC is limited in what information they may provide to the Board, if a conditionally released individual is unwilling to provide written authorization for the release of their health records. This creates a barrier for the DOC to meet its reporting responsibilities to the Board in cases of conditional release. Failure to provide the necessary health information to meet Board reporting requirements for a conditionally released individual may result in the Board having to revoke the conditional release and return the individual to the Oregon State Hospital.

HB 2915 would create conditions for the DOC to be able to adequately meet its reporting responsibilities to the Board in cases of conditional release.

For these reasons and pursuant to anticipated amendments, DOC supports this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Heidi Steward
Deputy Director
Oregon Department of Corrections