

March 10, 2025

To: House Committee on Judiciary

Re: Support for House Bill 3051-3

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen, Wallan, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a letter of support for HB 3051-3, which establishes maximum timelines that defendants under Aid & Assist can be ordered to community restoration.

Establishing community restoration timelines are important because fewer individuals are being treated until fit at the hospital under Aid & Assist orders. Many of these individuals are timing out of Oregon State Hospital (or are ineligible for admission) not because they have been restored, but due to the timelines set by the Mosman case. The numbers of individuals under community restoration has exponentially increased, placing burdens on the courts, the Community Mental Health Professionals, and the defendants whose unresolved cases can unnecessarily stretch for years. Community restoration numbers have tripled since the Mosman order without commensurate investment in community services, and continue to increase as the pressure to discharge Aid and Assist patients from Oregon State Hospital intensifies. Successful community restoration relies on appropriate residential treatment facilities and housing.

In Multnomah County, the lack of community restoration timelines impacts the folks who are currently on probation, are charged with a new crime and are found unable to aid and assist in their defense on the new crime. JII's current probations are also impacted, as we are unable to proceed with any sanctions or hearings until the person is restored to competency. In more extreme cases, we've had folks who are being restored to competency for years while committing new crimes or engaging in behavior detrimental to public safety. A timeframe for community restoration would lessen the impact on community corrections while we are working with an individual who is both on probation, and being restored to competency.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on HB 3051-3 and we request your support for the creation of community restoration timelines.

Sincerely,

Lizzy Atwood Wills
State Coordinator, Government Relations
Multnomah County