



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 10, 2025

Chair Representative Jason Kropf
Vice-Chair Representative Willy Chotzen
Vice-Chair Representative Kim Wallan
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: Opposition to House Bill 3051

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

The Marion County Board of Commissioners writes to strongly oppose House Bill 3051, which seeks to codify the Mosman Order into Oregon law. This legislation presents serious public safety concerns for communities across the state and undermines the ability of local governments to protect their residents from individuals with Serious and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI) who remain a threat to themselves and others.

The Oregon State Hospital (OSH) has been negligent in its duty to properly evaluate and treat individuals who are unable to aid in their own defense due to mental illness. Instead of ensuring adequate mental health treatment, the state hospital has chosen to prematurely release these individuals into the community, often without proper supervision, adequate treatment, or transitional housing. This has already resulted in repeated criminal activity, posing an immediate danger to public safety. HB 3051 would enshrine this failed approach into law, preventing local jurisdictions from taking necessary actions to ensure community well-being.

Under the Mosman Order, counties across Oregon, including Marion County, have been forced to release individuals who have been deemed too mentally ill to stand trial, but who are also too dangerous to be left unsupervised in the community. This has left law enforcement, the courts, and public health officials without the necessary tools to keep dangerous individuals off the streets. HB 3051 does not solve the problem, it makes it worse.

The fundamental flaws in the current system include:

- The premature release of individuals who are still in crisis, leading to increased criminal activity and danger to the public.
- A lack of accountability for the Oregon State Hospital, which has repeatedly failed to provide adequate treatment and mismanaged bed space for those who require hospitalization.
- Insufficient community restoration services, meaning many individuals are released without the structure, medication management, or supervision needed to prevent repeat offenses.

Simply shifting the burden of care to underfunded and overwhelmed community mental health programs is not a solution. Oregon's mental health system is already under strain, and forcing local communities to absorb these individuals, without proper funding or infrastructure, will have grave consequences.

Passing this bill will have serious implications. Communities across Oregon will see a rise in violent crime, homelessness, and repeat offenses due to individuals being released before they are stable. The State of Oregon must fully fund and expand hospital-level mental health treatment, not pass laws that prioritize bureaucratic efficiency over public safety.

We urge the Committee to reject HB 3051 and instead focus on holding the Oregon State Hospital accountable, increasing forensic mental health beds, and ensuring that individuals with SPMI receive the long-term, secure treatment they need.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out to our office if you have any questions or need further discussion on this issue.

Sincerely,



Danielle Bethell
Chair



Colm Willis
Commissioner



Kevin Cameron
Commissioner