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The Meyer Memorial Trust
The Northwest Health
Foundation
Trillium Family Services
Trillium Community Health Plan
Washington County

Chairs Prozanski and Kropf and members of the committee. My name is Bo Brinson, and I am the Executive Director of Oregon Recovers, a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to ending Oregon's addiction crisis by increasing access to effective care. I am here today to express our support for HB 2506, which directs the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission, in collaboration with the Oregon Health Authority, to develop statewide policies and practices to support the availability of medications for opioid use disorder (OUD) in physical health care settings and the transition to care in the community.

Opioid use disorder continues to devastate families and communities across Oregon. It has become a major public health crisis that impacts individuals from all walks of life, including myself. I have been on my recovery journey for over 5 years, and I have a doctor's prescription for these life saving medications. Having been on MAT, I have been able succeed making it all the way to the position that I have now. Without these medications there is a high probability that I would either be back in prison, or even just another statistic. By me being open about this, it helps to break the stigma and give other people the faith that recovery can be possible for them.

Medications like methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone are proven to save lives and help individuals like myself on their road to recovery, but many people with OUD have difficulty accessing these medications within traditional healthcare settings, often due to stigma or a lack of trained professionals.

By directing the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission and the Oregon Health Authority to collaborate on creating policies that facilitate the availability of these medications in physical health care settings, this bill will help ensure that people struggling with OUD can access treatment in a more accessible, non-judgmental environment. Supporting the transition to community-based care will allow for more continuous, coordinated treatment, reducing the risk of relapse and improving long-term outcomes.

At Oregon Recovers, we believe that every individual deserves access to effective and compassionate care, regardless of where they seek treatment. HB 2506 is a critical step toward creating a more integrated, compassionate, and effective system of care for those impacted by opioid use disorder. We urge you to support this important legislation and help provide people with OUD the opportunity for a better, healthier future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

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