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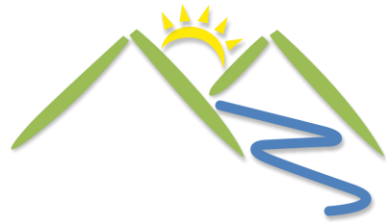
Dear Senator Prozanski, Representative Kropf, Representative Mannix, and Members of the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response,

On behalf of Oregon Recovery and Treatment Centers (ORTC) LLC, I am writing to formally express our strong support for HB 2506.

The ongoing opioid crisis demands that we expand and strengthen all available pathways to safety and recovery for individuals affected by opioid use disorder. Equally important is the need to eliminate any barriers that hinder access to these essential treatment options. HB 2506 addresses both of these critical objectives. As operators of several Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) in rural communities across Oregon, we witness the daily impact of opioid-related harm and feel the urgency of expanding access to life-saving treatment services.

We support this measure for several key reasons:

- **Expanding access to treatment in non-traditional settings:** By making appropriate screening and medications available in a broader range of settings, we can increase access to life-saving care. Meeting people where they are helps reduce the stigma associated with seeking care and ensures individuals have access to the medications and services necessary to achieve stability and begin their recovery journey.
- **Supporting transitions of care:** For individuals receiving medication-assisted treatment in acute care settings, HB 2506 will enhance the continuity of care and reduce the risk of opioid-related harm and overdose. Emergency departments and primary care providers are essential in treating those with opioid use disorder, and it is vital that they have the necessary resources to connect their patients to ongoing care. This includes an efficient and robust referral network of providers that can collaborate with them on delivering the best care possible for each patient.
- **Removing unnecessary barriers to treatment:** Oregon was one of only seven states with zoning restrictions that limit access to opioid treatment services in a Pew Charitable Trusts report published in 2022 (access this report [here](#).) These restrictions are not supported by evidence and are not considered best practice in the field. Studies show that the presence of OTPs is



associated with higher retention rates in treatment, decreased opioid use, and lower mortality rates from opioid overdose. There is no data supporting the efficacy of zoning restrictions and no evidence that OTPs contribute to increased illicit drug use. On the contrary, OTPs save lives.

We strongly urge you to support HB 2506 as part of a comprehensive approach to addressing the opioid crisis and improving the health and safety of our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Megan Marx, MPA, NCPRSS
Director of Integrated Care

cc: File