

March 19, 2025

Support for HB 2506

Chairs Prozanski and Kropf and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dan Hoover and I am an addiction medicine physician faculty at OHSU. I also direct OHSU's Addiction Medicine ECHO Program. I am testifying on behalf of myself in strong support HB 2506, and I have three reasons for my support to share with you.

I appreciate first that the bill recognizes that we need to adapt our care *systems*, and actually incentivize those systems to take up best practices for substance use disorder care and prescribing medication for OUD specifically. Within the addiction medicine ECHOs that I direct, we talk with providers on a regular basis who are the *opposite* of supported within their care systems. Actually there are huge system barriers to providing timely and adequate care, including the prescribing of MOUD. I know many amazing and noble healthcare workers, but healthcare is also a business. The incentives are important.

Second, I appreciate that the bill includes technical assistance (TA) for Emergency Departments and Hospitals. There is a large amount of Substance Use Disorder care that the current healthcare workforce was never trained to provide, and the health systems we work in are not adapted. The result is a system that creates numerous barriers for patients with SUD and people fall out of care entirely. Transforming our ED and hospital systems isn't an easy

task. However I am speaking from my experience providing education and technical assistance now – and I've seen the value of technical assistance for helping systems adopt new approaches, and adopt medication for OUD specifically.

Third, I appreciate that the bill intends to help transitions of care, such as hospital and ED discharge. Last year, we launched an ECHO focused on Emergency Departments and in talking with ED providers, there is a huge fear to start something (like a medication for OUD) and then have no follow-up plan, no link to resources in the community. That becomes a barrier to even start the medication.

Thank you for your service for Oregonians and for this opportunity to give testimony.

Sincerely,

Dan Hoover, MD