



OREGON PSYCHIATRIC  
PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATION

Date: March 25, 2025

To: The Honorable Chair Sara Gelser Blouin  
The Honorable Vice-Chair Diane Linthicum  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Daniel Nicoli, DO, Chair  
Oregon Psychiatric Physicians Association

RE: SB 989 Parental consent for treatment

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum and members of the committee:

My name is Dr. Daniel Nicoli. I'm a child and adolescent psychiatrist and Chair of the Oregon Psychiatric Physicians Association Legislative Committee (OPPA). The OPPA, a district branch of the American Psychiatric Association, was established in 1966. OPPA serves as the organization for Oregon's medical doctors specializing in psychiatry who work together to ensure effective treatment for persons with mental illness, including substance use disorders, and compassion for them and their families. OPPA is neutral on SB 989 but I wanted to provide informational testimony.

We met with Sen. Anderson about this bill earlier this month. There's some confusion about the ability of parents to admit children for inpatient treatment for certain mental, emotional, behavioral health or substance use disorder without their consent. Guardians already admit children with or without their consent. There is an administrative rule that points to this ability:

**[OAR 309-019-0115](#)**

**Individual Rights**

(C) Age 14 or older for outpatient [behavioral health] services only. For purposes of informed consent, outpatient service does not include service provided in residential programs or in day or partial hospitalization programs.

There is a problem to be solved. The challenge of getting kids into higher levels of care, including inpatient treatment, is due to the lack of available resources. This is especially true for substance use disorder treatment where Oregon is the worst in the nation. I'm happy to answer any questions.