

## Testimony to the Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee in Support of SB 1114

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gregory Bruemmer, and I am here to share my experience and voice my support for SB 1114.

Adoption has shaped my life profoundly—I was adopted, my son was adopted, and even my parents were adopted. In 1995, Oregon's legal system recognized mental health conditions through the "not guilty except for insanity" plea, a provision that has since changed, leaving significant gaps in addressing mental health needs today.

In 1996, following a difficult personal crisis involving a DUI and self-harm—a desperate cry for help—I received critical care at the Oregon State Hospital. Thanks to this treatment, I successfully rehabilitated. I secured employment, started a farm, and lived responsibly and productively for decades.

However, in 2021, my life was severely disrupted when I became the victim of a violent intrusion in my own apartment. The perpetrator forced his way in, and I defended myself by pushing him away. Unfortunately, despite the well-known history of the man's problematic behavior in our neighborhood, authorities did not support me, and attorneys advised me poorly. I was denied a fair trial and was subsequently placed under the Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB) jurisdiction for 10 years.

Today, I am a stable, functioning adult. I adhere strictly to my prescribed medication and actively participate in my recovery. Yet, the current system under the PSRB continues to hold me back from returning fully to the productive life I previously enjoyed.

SB 1114 represents a step forward in ensuring justice and fairness for individuals like myself, whose mental health conditions are inadequately recognized by the current legal framework. By supporting this bill, Oregon can begin addressing the gaps left by past legislative changes and restore dignity, fairness, and justice to individuals under PSRB jurisdiction.

Thank you for considering my testimony and your support for SB 1114.

Respectfully, Gregory Bruemmer