



Date: April 3, 2025

To: Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, & Members of the Committee

From: Legacy Health and Oregon Health & Science University

Subject: Support for HB 2467

Legacy and OHSU are two of the community providers who came together to create Unity Center for Behavioral Health to help those experiencing a behavioral health emergency, reduce the stigma of mental illness and address a major public health need in our community. The primary objective of Unity Center is to improve the quality and effectiveness of care for patients in crisis by providing the right care at the right time in the right setting, creating a pathway to hope, community and recovery.

Unity Center offers psychiatric emergency care for adults experiencing an acute psychiatric crisis. It also includes a 107-bed inpatient facility with services for both adults and adolescents who require additional care and treatment.

We support House Bill 2467 to create clarity in Oregon's civil commitment process.

The current statute does not provide clear definition for the terms "danger to self" and "danger to others." As a result, what we see throughout Oregon is an arbitrary inconsistent interpretation and application of the language, which leads to a lack of immediate care for individuals experiencing a serious mental health crisis.

These individuals need the right treatment at the right time. We know that early intervention leads to better outcomes, and without immediate access to care, it becomes far more challenging for an individual to be stabilized. This can lead to tragic consequences for patients, their loved ones, and the community.

The first step in providing immediate care for those who need it is to clearly define these terms for both courts and clinicians.

Legacy and OHSU urge you to support House Bill 2467.