



DEVELOPING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

April 3, 2025

House Committee on Judiciary
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 2467

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice Chair Chotzen, Vice Chair Wallan and Members of the Committee:

My name is Karen Saxe with DevNW, an affordable housing development and asset-building agency serving Lane, Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Marion, Polk and Clackamas Counties. We embark on comprehensive community development throughout our seven-county service area through services aimed at increasing financial stability for individuals and families as well as through economic and housing development.

DevNW owns and operates affordable rental housing throughout much of our service area, ranging from small 4-plexes to larger multifamily developments. In addition, we provide a suite of services through our team of Community Health Workers including eviction prevention supports, on-site community building and external service navigation.

Housing providers are often the first, and most trusted, avenue of support for our residents, but lack the tools and resources to fully support those posing a risk to themselves or others. Our primary goal is to ensure that all our residents are safely and stably housed. HB 2467 would lead to earlier interventions to ensure appropriate access, when most needed, to clinical supports by providing clear definitions for better decision-making. We continue to see a rise in the need for mental and behavioral health supports for our residents, recognizing strained systems throughout Oregon for these services, and the negative impacts that occur without specific definitions within this space.

We support the goals of HB 2467 to create definitions for terms such as “danger to self” and “danger to others” to provide courts and clinicians consistent standards from which to make critical decisions. Additionally, by defining “serious physical harm” and “near future” risk we believe that courts and clinicians will be better equipped to make informed, fair decisions to intervene before a crisis escalates. We appreciate the Governor, her team and the broad coalition who worked to bring this bill before you and urge your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KSaxe".

Karen Saxe
Director of Policy, Advocacy and Strategic Relationships

devNW.org



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