



April 3, 2025

House Committee on Judiciary

Re: Support for HB 2467 – Clarifying and Strengthening Oregon’s Civil Commitment Criteria

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Chotzen, Vice-Chair Wallan, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Julie Ibrahim, and I serve as the CEO for New Narrative, as the President of Tri-County Behavioral Health Providers Association, and as a board member of the Oregon Council for Behavioral Health. New Narrative is based in Tigard and provides high-acuity, team-based behavioral health services including clinical services, residential treatment and peer support to individuals living with serious and persistent mental illness across the Portland metro area. Our agency is a major provider of residential treatment services for those exiting the Oregon State Hospital. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2467.

HB 2467 is a necessary update to Oregon’s civil commitment laws. The current standard is vague and nearly impossible to meet until someone is already in crisis – often after they’ve lost housing, become involved with the criminal legal system, or attempted to harm themselves or others. By then, the window for meaningful early intervention has closed.

This bill provides clear, clinically informed definitions of terms like “dangerous to self,” “dangerous to others,” and “serious physical harm.” These definitions bring consistency to a process that varies dramatically across jurisdictions and allow professionals to act when someone is clearly on a dangerous path, not just after harm has occurred.

This is not about broadening involuntary treatment. It’s about making sure that when someone is in imminent danger – when all signs point to serious harm – we are not legally required to wait and watch. That threshold for action is currently too high, and as a result, opportunities to intervene have been missed, with devastating consequences. Not because help wasn’t available, but because our laws didn’t allow it to come soon enough.

HB 2467 is about safety, dignity, and timing. It supports earlier, more effective intervention, and helps keep people connected to care and community. It’s a reasonable, responsible step forward in creating a mental health system that works.

I respectfully urge your support.

Sincerely,

Julie Ibrahim, CEO