



**Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, Members of the Committee,**

On behalf of the Tri-County Behavioral Health Providers Association (TCBHPA), we are writing to express our strong support for HB 2467 which represents a much-needed update to Oregon's civil commitment laws, addressing gaps in how we intervene in mental health crises. The existing legal framework is often too vague and difficult to meet until an individual is already in severe distress—sometimes after losing their home, becoming involved in the criminal justice system, or even attempting harm to themselves or others. At that point, it's often too late to effectively intervene.

This bill takes a crucial step by introducing precise, clinically informed definitions for terms like “dangerous to self,” “dangerous to others,” and “serious physical harm.” These definitions bring clarity and consistency to a process that varies widely across counties and jurisdictions. More importantly, it allows mental health professionals to take action when there is clear evidence that someone is on a dangerous path—before harm has occurred, not after.

This is not an attempt to expand involuntary treatment but to ensure that when an individual is on the brink of serious harm, we don't have to stand by and wait. The current legal threshold for intervention is simply too high, resulting in missed opportunities for earlier support and care. These missed opportunities often have tragic consequences—not because help wasn't available, but because the law didn't allow timely action.

HB 2467 is about protecting both safety and dignity. It encourages earlier and more effective intervention, keeping individuals connected to the care and support they need while preventing further harm. This bill is a responsible and necessary step forward in building a mental health system that works for everyone.

We appreciate your leadership in advancing policies that strengthen Oregon's behavioral health system, and we strongly encourage your support of HB 2467 as part of a broader commitment to ensuring access to care for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

TCBHPA Board of Directors