

Date:	April 3, 2025
To:	Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Wallan and Chotzen, Members of the House Judiciary Committee
From:	Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager Tim Dooley
Subject:	Support – HB 2467

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding HB 2467. For the record, I am Tim Dooley, for the Association of Oregon Counties, representing Oregon County Governments.

AOC is supportive of HB 2467 with the -3 amendments. AOC was part of the workgroup developing many of the proposals that have been heard before this committee.

While we support this bill, we urge the committee to understand that the impact of changing the standards of civil commitment will necessitate investments in the behavioral health system. If we expand the universe of who can be committed by updating the standards for commitment, it is imperative that we do so in a manner commensurate with funding for the community mental health programs and facilities such as SRTFs, Residential Treatment Homes, and intensive outpatient services – those that provide the spaces and staffing to support and treat individuals in the civil commitment process.

Without that investment, counties are concerned that we will be unable to adequately fulfill the intent of this bill, which is to get those most in need of care into adequate treatment.

We would ask the committee consider delaying the effective date for this bill, allowing the investments contemplated in HB 2059 and HB 2056 for RTFs and CMHPs to come to fruition so that we do not find ourselves in a situation where the infrastructure is not in place to serve the needs of those entering the civil commitment system.

Oregon has seen what happens when we get our implementation wrong, as in Measure 110, where the infrastructure was not in place to treat individuals with substance use disorders prior to decriminalization. Let us do this reform in a thoughtful fashion to achieve our shared policy aims.

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