

April 3, 2025

RE: Support for HB 2467

Salem is home to our state's largest psychiatric facility and the heart of many statewide conversations around mental health and public safety. Our community experiences daily the reality of a mental health system that is stretched thin and often ill-equipped to respond quickly to people in crisis. We see it in our downtown, in our neighborhoods, and across our institutions.

The stories you've heard, from families who have fought tirelessly to get their loved ones help, are not distant examples to us. They reflect the very real struggles playing out in our streets, parks, and emergency rooms. We know how heartbreaking and helpless it feels to watch someone slip further into psychosis, knowing that the system is unable, or unwilling, to step in until a crisis becomes a catastrophe.

House Bill 2467 presents a meaningful step toward changing that dynamic. Civil commitment is not a tool to be used lightly, but it is one that should be available when someone is clearly at risk and unable to seek treatment themselves. It is one of the few legal options families, law enforcement, and medical professionals have to intervene before harm is done, to the individual or to others. As it stands today, that option is too often out of reach until it's too late.

This bill doesn't solve every challenge we face in mental health care, but it addresses a critical gap. It gives judges clearer criteria to act, allowing earlier interventions when someone's condition is deteriorating, not just when danger is imminent.

I am proud to work in partnership with Marion County. Together, we are aligned in recognizing this bill as a tool that, while nuanced, can help prevent suffering and improve outcomes for individuals, families, and communities, not just in Salem, but across Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 2467, and for your commitment to building a more responsive, compassionate mental health system.

Julie Hoy
Mayor
City of Salem