

Submitter: Caren Caldwell  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2467  
Comments in Support: House Bill 2467 with Dash-3 Amendment  
Rev. Caren Caldwell, Ashland OR  
April 5, 2025

Please move HB 2467-3 forward to be passed in this legislative session along with companion funding bills that will expand the behavior health services, HB 2015-3/SB 1195 and HB 2059-2, that mentally ill Oregonians must have to achieve reasonable levels of healthy living in community.

My son has bipolar disorder. He, and all of us in the family, suffered from his illness for several years while the health care system was unable to do anything to help him because of his resistance to seek services on his own.

His behavior continued to deteriorate as we sought to get him some kind of help. We applied to our local community health department for a civil commitment after many visits to the ER and many calls to police and increasing complaints from neighbors about his disturbing behavior. My husband and I spoke with counselors, doctors, and finally police, a lawyer, the DA and judges. It wasn't until our beloved son began striking his father and me in our home that the system was finally moved to action.

My son did not need a state hospital level of care. He was placed successfully in the psych department of our local regional hospital. He was there for 30 days for assessment, diagnosis, and medication. He did not come home cured, but he came home so much better that he was able to live safely with us while he continued to improve.

Why do we allow people to suffer with these behavioral health diseases without help? Please provide the care we need. Pass HB 2467-3, HB 2015/SB 1195, and HB 2059-2.

Sincerely, Caren Caldwell