

Submitter: Clara Lynne Knowles
On Behalf Of: Myself as a mother of civilly committed daughter
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2467
To: Oregon House Committee on Judiciary
From: Clara Lynne Knowles
Date: April 5, 2025
Re: HB 2467 (oppose)

Good afternoon Chair Kropf, Vice-Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 2467. I live out of state, in Vermont, but my daughter is a long time Oregon resident. She has been living there her entire adult life.

She was fortunate in that she eventually found the type of help that she needed. It was a process that took years, with a lot of pain and suffering. She had the good sense to continuously seek out services that were transformative in her increased well-being, functioning and overall quality of life improvement.

After all of this, she was civilly committed while doing well and engaged in maintenance mental health services. It was very difficult as her mother to see how her civil commitment was so traumatic and detrimental. It nearly severed her from the consistent participation in an ongoing long term community mental health program as well as a near loss of long term stable housing that also provided her with community involvement and purpose.

I agree that everyone deserves mental health care and that there is a need for access to mental health care while integrated with peers in the community. I do have concerns that the bill will increase further separating people from resources and will not actually provide sustainable options for care.

I feel that a loss of basic autonomy, civil liberties and forced isolation lead to trauma/fear of reaching out to previously used resources for fear of psychiatric imprisonment.

We live hundreds of miles apart. My daughter's anxiety is increased over coming to visit due to lifelong exclusion to TSA pre check, which is a direct consequence of civil commitment. And now, with all the uncertainty in our country as to who may be snatched up by the government without any warning or cause, this fear must be even greater. I know it is for me.

I appreciate the Committee members for taking time to consider my perspective as a mother with first hand insight of supporting a daughter through civil commitment.

I do hope that you will consider more than the search of immediate "fix", the illusion of civilly committing a person against their will, and look at the whole big picture. Please OPPOSE HB 2467. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Clara Lynne Knowles