

Submitter: Sarah Caskey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2467

Since 2012, My adult son has been committed involuntarily to the Oregon State Hospital twice, both times he was sent from the Deschutes County Jail by the court since he was assessed to be unable to aid and assist in his defense. His family, therapists, and county case workers knew this was the level of care needed to bring him out of his delusional thinking and behavior but despite seemingly herculean efforts, he didn't meet the criteria for involuntary placement. As a result he now has a criminal record he must try to explain to every potential employer, rental management agency, and others while he is also navigating life while managing a mental health diagnosis.

Luckily, my son is now living in his own apartment and is highly valued by his employers at his full time job he's kept for the past six months. I am grateful for his current situation but have learned this might not always be the case. I DO NOT want to live in a country that could snatch people off the street and send them away for no reason, however, my experience has shown me that under the right conditions and with the right oversight, it might be sometimes necessary to step in to help when individuals can not make the decision to seek care for themselves. Society will be helped as will the individuals and their families, and could alleviate the unfathomable amount of stress and anguish our family has already experienced and may experience again..

Thank you for considering HB 2467,
Sarah Caskey