

HB 5006 Testimony
April 16, 2025
Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Good evening Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, Co-Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith, and members of the Committee:

I am Dr. Jacek (Jack) Haciaak, Director of DynamicChanges LLC. I am a retired Psychologist and former administrator of mental health programs in four states.

I am testifying in support of prioritizing community mental health services, such as HB 2015 with Dash-2 Amendment; HB 2056 with Dash-1 Amendment; HB 2059 with Dash-2 Amendment. I am also testifying to support cost savings by requesting you not fund HB 2467 which would significantly and unnecessarily add to the rate and expense of mental health civil commitments and their potential for abuse from circumventing human rights protections. The criteria and procedural changes in HB 2467 ignore evidence-based practice data and contaminate the otherwise helpful safety function of brief civil commitment only at times of true danger.

Current cost data cited by Disability Rights Oregon show an Oregon expense of \$321,000 for a standard 180-day commitment period. And that does not reflect the long-term additional costs from those who go on to avoid community services after release from an outpatient civil commitment status out of fear of being again exposed to another over-application of civil commitment rights restrictions if a future crisis was misjudged as being “dangerous” again.

I encourage you to prioritize community services investments which will obviate the need for intensive and costly services at times of crisis, and to also avoid increased expenditures on preventable post-crisis civil commitment costs.

Thank you.

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