



OREGON PSYCHIATRIC
PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATION

Date: April 23, 2025

To: The Honorable Chairs Sen. Floyd Prozanski and Rep. Jason Kropf
The Honorable Vice-Chair Rep. Kevin Mannix
Members of the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety
Response

From: Bennett Garner MD, Vice Chair
Oregon Psychiatric Physicians Association

RE: OPPA support for HB 2488 -3, Civil Commitment

Co-Chairs Prozanski and Kropf, Co-Vice Chair Mannix, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Bennett Garner. I am a child, adolescent, and adult psychiatrist and Vice Chair of the Oregon Psychiatric Physicians Association (OPPA) Legislative Committee. The OPPA is the Oregon district branch of the American Psychiatric Association and represents psychiatrists throughout the state.

The OPPA strongly supports HB 2488 -3, and we were actively involved in the work-group that developed this proposal. We believe this bill includes two key improvements to current law that will better serve individuals with serious mental illness.

First, the bill extends the possible length of a diversion from 14 days to 28 days. This change reflects clinical realities: stabilization from many psychiatric conditions—particularly psychotic illnesses—often takes longer than 14 days. The current timeframe is frequently insufficient for meaningful assessment and engagement in care.

Second, the bill allows a Declaration for Mental Health Treatment to be used in lieu of civil commitment. This provision promotes individual autonomy by allowing treatment to proceed according to a person's previously stated preferences, even during periods when they may lack decision-making capacity. Importantly, it also encourages earlier conversations between patients and clinicians, increasing the likelihood of treatment that aligns with the individual's values and wishes. Involuntary treatment is always a serious intervention, and this change makes it more person-centered and respectful.

For these reasons, we urge your support for HB 2488 -3.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our perspective.