



April 15, 2013

Senate Health Care & Human Services Committee

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee,

ShelterCare, a private non-profit human services agency in Lane County, urges your support of Senate Bill 724.

Senate Bill 724 will improve the lives of individuals living with severe psychiatric disabilities in community settings.

Many of the services and expenses that would significantly improve the lives, well-being and physical health of men and women supported by community mental health are not currently deemed "medically necessary" and therefore not reimbursed by Medicaid.

ShelterCare has been working for our local community since 1970 and currently serves approximately 2000 individuals each year. Our programs aim to support individuals, providing opportunities for them to live the fullest life possible in an environment that fosters well-being and success.

In our experience, "flexible" sources of funding have been significant and often essential to the recovery of our clients. In the past these funds have been used to improve the physical health and psychiatric well being for many of our program participants. Such uses include:

- Membership in the local YMCA to improve physical health and mental stability
- Purchase of materials to encourage participants' involvement in community activities, improving community integration
- Support for tools or materials that allow participants to explore educational or vocational interests.

Thank you very much for your consideration, we urge your "aye" vote on Senate Bill 724.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Ban". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan A. Ban
Executive Director
ShelterCare