



Testimony submitted to the House Committee on Health Care

In support of HB 2825

Friday, February 20th

Chair Greenlick and members of the committee. My name is Beth Barker, I am the CFO for Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare. I am writing in support of HB 2825. Jennifer Ho, the HUD Senior Advisor on Housing and Services, stated at gathering of community behavioral healthcare workers in Washington DC, "housing is healthcare." This bold statement goes to the heart of the importance of housing for many of our state's most vulnerable citizens - people living with mental illness.

As the Treasurer of NAMI Oregon and the CFO of Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare, Inc., I believe strongly that expanding incentive funding across the state will encourage many Oregon communities to collaborate on housing development with private financing, federal grants, local funding and the regional planning in processes by many of Oregon's Local Mental Health Authorities and Coordinated Care Organizations. The passage of HB 2825 could go a long way to improve the quality of life for many citizens of Oregon.

This testimony is submitted on behalf of Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare (CBH). CBH is a healthcare provider in Oregon for mental health and addiction treatment services. We also provide supported housing and permanent housing to more than 600 individuals. CBH is unique in providing a full continuum of services to children, families, adults and older adults. We have over 75 locations in Multnomah, Clackamas and Lane Counties, helping 12,000 and employing over 900 Oregonians.