



ASSOCIATION OF OREGON COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

Addictions • Mental Health • Developmental Disabilities

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To: Chair Senator Prozanski and Members of the Senate Committee on
Judiciary

The Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs
(AOCMHP) supports SB 622, which adds personal support workers and
legislative staff to the list as mandatory reporters for Oregon's most
vulnerable citizens, including children and older adults with intellectual
and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

AOCMHP's membership includes 32 Community Developmental
Disability Programs (CDDPs) across Oregon -- often the first contacts in
the community for people with I/DD. CDDP programs are operated by
either local government, usually through Community Mental Health
Programs, or by not-for-profit entities that subcontract with local
government. CDDPs help assure the protection and safety of over
22,000 Oregonians with I/DD in collaboration with providers and families.

Personal Support Workers (PSWs) in both CDDPs and Brokerages are
the front line staff working with children and adults with I/DD in the
community. They may be the first persons to identify abuse or notice
changes in an individual's life. All other staff working directly with
individuals with I/DD in group homes, foster care, case management and
schools are mandatory abuse reporters.

Mandatory abuse reporting training not only helps individuals to identify
potential abuse and how to report, it informs PSWs that they will be
reported if they neglect or abuse an individual. HB 622 puts into place
standards and reporting that are already implemented in the community
for thousands of other workers in the DD system.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 622.

Sincerely,

Cherryl L. Ramirez

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