



# ASSOCIATION OF OREGON COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

Addictions • Mental Health • Developmental Disabilities

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April 28, 2015

To: Chair Representative Barker and Members of the House Committee  
on Judiciary

The Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs  
(AOCMHP) supports SB 622 A, 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, as they may see them on a regular basis.  
All other staff working directly with individuals with I/DD in group homes,  
foster care, case management and schools are required 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. SB 622 A 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 supporting SB 622 A.

Sincerely,

*Cherryl L. Ramirez*

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