



March 29, 2017

TO: Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
FR: Bob Joondeph, Executive Director
RE: Support for SB 132

Disability Rights Oregon (DRO) is Oregon's nonprofit *Protection and Advocacy* office that provides legal-based advocacy to Oregonians with disabilities. DRO has provided legal-based advocacy for individuals with psychiatric disabilities in and outside of treatment facilities since 1986.

SB 132 is one piece of a larger effort to free up state hospital beds in order to serve more civilly committed patients, offer mental health services in the least restrictive, appropriate setting, honor the OHA's agreement with the US Department of Justice, and make better use of scarce public resources.

SB 132 would, after appropriate amendment, limit the number of people who can be sent to OSH through the criminal justice system, allow DOC inmates to receive assessment and restorative treatment in prison under certain circumstances, allow murder defendants to remain at OSH after restoration in certain limited circumstances and place certain procedures for court – directed forced medication in statute.

DRO would prefer that OSH only be used for restorative treatment for defendants charged with serious person crimes. Procedures and resources should incentivize the use of local services for evaluations and restorative treatment. We will support those portions of SB 132 that further that objective.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer support of efforts to use Oregon's mental health resources more efficiently and effectively.