



**Testimony in support of HBs 2175 and 2176 – Removing limitation on number of sobering facilities and authorizing use of funds from Mental Health, Alcoholism and Drug Services Account**

May 15, 2017

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of Senate Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP) I would like to express our support for HBs 2175 and 2176, removing the limitation on number of sobering facilities across the state and authorizing up to 10% of a county's Mental Health, Alcoholism and Drug Services Account and up to 10% of the Oregon Health Authority's matching funds to fund sobering facility operations. The existing sobering centers provide a much needed option for law enforcement and crisis service providers to take individuals to in lieu of jails or hospitals, and other counties should be able to offer this resource.

We also need to improve the rate of transition from sobering centers to ongoing treatment services. Expansion of sobering centers across the state is a great development but can not come at the cost of reducing and reallocating the very limited statewide treatment services bucket. As sobering centers expand, there will be increasing demand for treatment services. While there is a close intersection between sobering and treatment, sobering does not substitute for treatment.

We are supportive of using County Mental Health, Alcoholism and Drug Services Accounts and OHA matching funds for sobering facilities. However, these funds will not likely cover the costs of operating sobering facilities and additional funds will have to be obtained elsewhere.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HBs 2175 and 2176.

Sincerely,

*Cherryl L. Ramirez*

Cherryl L. Ramirez  
Director, AOCMHP