



Testimony in support of SB 132A – Procedures for determining fitness to proceed and restoration

May 22, 2017

Dear Chair Barker and Members of House Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP), I would like to testify in support of SB 132A. We believe that restoration in the community is a good alternative to restoration at the Oregon State Hospital for certain Aid & Assist defendants who qualify, based on their charges and mental acuity, and if there are sufficient resources in communities to provide appropriate restoration services. As noted in the Governor’s budget, “Key to addressing this issue (i.e., too many Aid & Assist defendants at OSH for restoration services) is developing a robust array of community services, including crisis interventions such as mobile crisis teams and assertive community treatment that enable law enforcement and other community partners to connect people with mental health services rather than arrest them.”

We were one of the parties concerned about the potentially broad interpretation of “other facility” or “another facility” mentioned throughout the bill. The clarifications stated in the amendment, allowing flexibility in the place where .365 evaluations are provided and in specifying the Department of Corrections as the other facility for .370 evaluations, alleviated our concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 132A and we look forward to continuing progress with our system partners on identifying the best remedies for decreasing the Aid & Assist defendant census at OSH.

Sincerely,

Cherryl L. Ramirez

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Director, AOCMHP