



Comments on House Bill 2302
From Chris Bouneff, Executive Director, NAMI Oregon
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House Committee on Health Care

NAMI Oregon wishes to express its support for House Bill 2302, which would expand the Oregon State Hospital's (OSH) authority to assist patients in applying for a full suite of state and federal assistance programs as patients prepare to discharge to community settings.

This simple legislation can potentially have profound positive impacts. Under current authority granted to OSH, patients have access to assistance applying for the Oregon Health Plan. But patients must wait until discharging to apply for other state and federal programs that can provide critical support. Often, the help some individuals need in applying for programs such as disability or food assistance isn't easily found once people are living in the community.

Individuals living with mental illness will have increased odds of success and long-term recovery in the community if these supportive programs are in place before discharging from the hospital.

NAMI Oregon is pleased to support HB 2302, and we encourage the Committee to approve the legislation.