



HB 2302

Relating to Oregon State Hospital patients; declaring an emergency.

Presenter: Greg Roberts, Superintendent, Oregon State Hospital

Chair Greenlick and members of the committee: I am Greg Roberts, Superintendent of the Oregon State Hospital.

I am here to testify in support of HB 2302, because it will enable the Oregon State Hospital to apply for benefits on behalf of patients who are too ill to apply themselves. The financial stability and access to health care provided by these benefits are extremely important factors in determining someone's success after leaving the hospital.

Oregon State Hospital does not have statutory authority to apply for all benefits for which patients may be eligible. As a result, some patients are discharged without the benefits they need already in place. This means they do not have access to health care – medications, medical services and appointments, durable medical equipment or coordinated care. Furthermore, they do not have the financial resources to pay for housing, food and other daily basic living needs.

ORS 426.300 allows OSH staff to apply for Medicaid on behalf of patients. HB 2302 expands that service to include Social Security Disability Insurance, Supplemental Security Income, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and other state and federal benefits. This will help ensure patients have a safety net in place upon leaving the hospital, resulting in a more successful transition to the community and preventing readmissions to the hospital.

Oregon State Hospital and the Oregon Health Authority support this bill and request your support as well. Thank you.

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