

February 6th, 2018

Senate Committee on Human Services
Oregon Prevention, Education and Recovery Association Testimony in support of SB 1540
Presented: Heather Jefferis MA, Executive Director OPERA

Dear Chair Gelser and Committee Members,

We thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony. Oregon Prevention Education and Recovery Association (OPERA) is a statewide member association comprised of just under 30 Substance Use Disorder (SUD) agencies. Our members provide SUD and mental health services from prevention/early intervention through residential and detox services. We serve both urban and rural communities across the state. Our services support thousands of Oregonians annually on their journey to a healthier life in recovery. Our member organizations represent a diverse group of providers serving both Oregon Health Plan and private insurance patients. Services provided in our continuum of care are focused on creating pathways to recovery that are informed through consideration of the racial, cultural and trauma informed needs of our patients. We are here today to support the consistent standards and intent presented in SB 1540 to protect the safety of all patients served aligning with our mission and recovery work. OPERA supports all activities enhancing and ensuring safe, quality care for patients who are most vulnerable and in significant need based on their experience of the chronic disease of Substance Use Disorder and particularly in SB 1540 being qualified for residential and detox service levels of care.

We greatly appreciate the collaboration and coordination taken in creating this bill and look forward to continued partnership with you, the Office of Adult Abuse Prevention and Investigation and Oregon Health Authority as this work moves forward.

OPERA supports considerations of future activities including working together to lift sustainable patient safety operations and function of above system partners. We hope this work continues to enhance ongoing quality assurance and monitoring to protect patient safety. Also providing opportunities and forums for strengthening patient safety systems and supporting resources as needed in creating effective continuous improvement processes. We support and are pleased to continue collaboration that bolster systems and operations that prevent abuse, particularly in rules, definitions, technical assistance, infrastructure and implementation. We support efforts ensuring all partners further develop robust infrastructures and clear common sense standardized processes, from reporting through due process leading to improved safety outcomes across program types and minimizing potential safety risks. OPERA is particularly eager to grow our partnership in the future work related to the above-mentioned actions as they support the unique circumstances of the serious, acute and crisis level of patient need and services in detox

settings and creating rules that are specific to this critical service that supports the life and safety of persons in their most vulnerable experience of Substance Use Disorder.

We thank you for consideration of HB4143.

Most sincerely

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