



Testimony

SB 1543

February 8, 2018

Presenter: Micky Logan, Legal Affairs Director, Oregon State Hospital, Oregon Health Authority

Good afternoon Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee: I am Micky Logan, Legal Affairs Director at the Oregon State Hospital.

I am here to testify regarding SB 1543, which the Oregon Health Authority and Oregon State Hospital will support with an amendment.

The bill as written contains language in section 5 stating that the “supervising entity” that may issue an order for the return of a person to the state hospital includes “the board [PSRB], the chairperson or executive director of the board [PSRB] *or the community mental health program director.*” (Emphasis added).

We propose that the language be amended as follows:

As used in this subsection, “supervising entity” means the board, the chairperson or executive director of the board. “Supervising entity” includes the community mental health program director when the person on conditional release has absconded.

Without an amendment, the bill’s current language could result in PSRB clients being returned to the hospital by the community mental health program – without going through the PSRB.

The PSRB frequently responds to situations where the community wants to send a PSRB client to the hospital. The PSRB does an excellent job determining when its clients need to be returned to the hospital, and when their client’s needs may be met in other ways. Without the amendment that we are recommending, the PSRB would not be able to serve as a gatekeeper.

We understand that the amendments in section 5 are designed to make it easier for an order to be issued if a patient absconds. That is why our recommended language would allow a community mental health program director to issue an order if a patient absconds.

Thank you.