



**Testimony in support of SB 1540A**

***Abuse investigations and reporting***

February 19, 2018

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of House Committee on Human Services and Housing,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP), I would like to express our support for SB 1540A. We agree with restoring responsibility to OAPPI and community mental health programs to screen and investigate abuse allegations by people with mental illness and substance use disorders, who receive treatment from a provider paid directly or indirectly by the Oregon Health Authority.

We understand that we will be able to provide input during the rulemaking process to address our concerns about the possible increase in abuse screenings and investigations due to the expansion of the target population and abuse definitions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1540A and we appreciate your willingness to review the impact to County/Community Mental Health Program workload during interim sessions, resulting in a potential investment in abuse screenings and investigations in 2019.

Sincerely,

*Cherryl L. Ramirez*

Cherryl L. Ramirez  
Director, AOCMHP