

February 15, 2019

MULTNOMAH
MDI
DEFENDERS
INCORPORATED
JUVENILE LAW DIVISION
LLOYD CORPORATE PLAZA
847 NE 19TH AVENUE
SUITE 270
PORTLAND, OREGON 97232
(503) 226-3083
FAX (503) 808-9116

The Honorable Representative Jennifer Williamson, Chair
House Judiciary Committee, Members

Re: Testimony in support of HB 2400


Dear Chair Williamson and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit the following comments in support of House Bill 2400. Individuals who are alleged to have mental illness under ORS 426 are generally a vulnerable population. Many of the most common mental disorders cause symptoms of disorganization, confusion and delusions. It is especially important to protect the legal rights of someone who is symptomatic. They are more likely to have trouble fully understanding their right to appeal and may not be capable of effectively advocating for themselves in a timely manner.

House Bill 2400 will help ensure that people suffering from a mental disorder have access to the same appellate rights as individuals that have been convicted of a crime in Oregon. It will also ensure that a vulnerable population has full and fair access to the legal system.

For the reasons outlined above, OCDLA and Multnomah Defenders strongly urge a "yes" vote on House Bill 2400.

Thank you for your consideration,



Alexander Cambier,
Attorney at Law, Multnomah Defenders Inc.
Member of Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association