

Senator Monnes Anderson,

This is for Senate Bill 138 (SB138)

[\(SB 138](#) Reestablishes Mental Health Clinical Advisory Group in Oregon Health Authority to continue development of evidence-based algorithms for prescription drug treatment of mental health disorders.)

Thank you for your consideration to these points and for sharing these with the committee. I prefer to give my testimony in person, and I generally do not write my testimonies word for word. I was planning to come to Salem today but Mother Nature with her snow is preventing that. I hope that you can understand what I wrote quickly.

According to Zachariah in your office, it is too late to submit official testimony. Therefore I am sending you the following items I would like the Senate Committee on Health to consider in this email about SB 138.

In regards to any algorithm committee membership as defined in SB 138:

1. For an amendment, alteration, or change to the bill: All members and organizations who are part of the committee involved must disclose any financial connections (any financial support from pharmaceutical companies) or interests with any pharmaceutical companies.

I have seen in other states where this disclosure is plainly written at the beginning of any algorithm report. Having this in the bill will assure transparency. This should not be a burden or a reason not to be admitted to the committee.

2. The membership should include one consumer (peer) who is or has been a consumer of mental health services

Not as currently written in SB138: "One consumer of mental health services or one family member of a consumer of mental health services".

I hope that there will be at least one person on the committee who has personally experienced taking psychiatric medication. That truth and experience is important to have at the table. Having that input would add to the discussion. Also, there are many peers who have worked in the medical field and who are knowledgeable about the science of the medications. I understand that it is not feasible to put into statute or law that someone disclose that they have taken or are taking psychiatric medication.

Another member could be added to supplement with a "natural support" or family member. I personally prefer the words "natural support" to define those who care for and assist person with mental health issues unless "family member" is officially defined as someone who may not always be related by blood.

3. The membership should include one "natural support or family member of a consumer of mental health service" in addition to the peer member ("one peer or family member").

Not as currently written in SB138: "One consumer of mental health services or one family member of a consumer of mental health services".

It is important to have the input a witness of a person who is taking or who has taken medication in the outside world, not just directly in settings where medical personnel can observe people on medications.

Another member could be added to supplement with a "natural support" or family member. I personally prefer the words "natural support" to define those who care for and assist person with mental health issues unless "family member" is officially defined as someone who may not always be related by blood.

4. The membership should include one youth.

This is in addition to the peer member ("one peer or family member"). "Youth" as defined in other bills such as the definitions for the youth peer for the Traditional Health Worker. This youth doesn't have to necessarily identify as a peer.

This is their future. Their input is invaluable. These algorithms will determine how a group of people in Oregon behave and will affect budgets and possibly general public safety. There are young people who know the science. In Gresham at a magnet school, students are studying medical science and they may have updated research skills and knowledge that professionals who have been in the field for a long time do not have. An example of youth at the table are in Multnomah County and the City of Portland have youth leaders who are designated official seats as part of official City and County committees that were previously only held by adults there.

*Not imperative, and I would like to add that

5. The membership should include a nutritionist as any they understand food can help or hinder the effectiveness of any medication and a professional nutritionist knows the body science about how the body and brain react to different substances taking through digestion.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ann Kasper, MA, PSS

Si vis pacem, para pacem. Latin for "If you want peace, prepare for peace."