



**Testimony in support of SB 25**

***Forensic evaluation record sharing***

February 27, 2019

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of Senate Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP), I would like to express our support for SB 25 as amended with additional changes recommended by the Aid & Assist workgroup and outlined below. AOCMHP represents the 32 community mental health programs across the state, who share responsibility for Aid & Assist defendants with their Judiciary and Public Safety system partners.

In addition to the -1 amendment, the changes we support are:

- Changing the observation and examination period in Section 3 (2)(a) and (b) back to not to exceed 30 days
- Adding CMHP director or director's designee to Section 3 (6): "Reports and evaluations conducted under this section are confidential and may only be made available to the court, the prosecuting attorney, the defense attorney, the **CMHP director or director's designee**, and the defendant."

In order to determine whether or not a community has appropriate housing and services for a defendant's restoration and treatment, the CMHP director or designee must be involved in the decisions and have access to the same information as their Judiciary system partners do.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 25, an important piece of the puzzle in decreasing the number of Aid & Assist defendants at the Oregon State Hospital.

Sincerely,

*Cherryl L. Ramirez*

Cherryl L. Ramirez  
Director, AOCMHP