

From the desk of Beckie Child,

Memo

To: House Healthcare Committee

From: Beckie Child, MSW Ph.D. c.

Date: February 25, 2019

Re: HB 2831 Support

Chair Salinas and Members of the Committee

I am writing today to offer my support of HB 2831. HB 2831 provides an absolutely essential component of support for people experiencing emotional distress and seeking support but don't want to be hospitalized. This level of service does not exist in Oregon. Many people experiencing emotional distress and symptoms of mental health challenges would like support to navigate such experiences but find hospitalization traumatizing. Peer-run respite programs provide opportunities to manage such distressing experiences and allow people to exercise their self-determination.

Peer respite program work to support people's choices about the care they receive using peer support. This type of service does not exist anywhere in Oregon at this time. Peer-respite programs are growing all over the US. This short [video](#) (9 minutes) provides a tour of the Rose House in Poughkeepsie, NY run by PEOPLE, Inc.. This hospital diversion program was developed in 2001. The video was created in 2011. The Rose House is still operating. This [website](#) provides information about the evaluation work that has been done on peer respite programs around the country.

Sincerely,



Beckie Child
Multnomah County