

My name is Jeannie Olson and I reside in Bend, Oregon. My adult son lives with serious mental illness and for many years we desperately tried, and made many attempts at, working with the system to get help. I am asking for your support for SB 763 so that other families do not have to have these experiences.

We had to go through the court to attempt a civil commitment, which consisted of him being transported from jail to Salem. He didn't qualify for Aid and Assist, and therefore wasn't sent to the Oregon State Hospital. He sat in jail for a year instead.

After several more years of med changes, ER visits, jail sentences, prison for four months, and Deschutes Recovery Center for about a year, he ended up getting so out of control during an emergency room visit, that I presented a written history to the judge at his hearing, and requested that he be sent to the Oregon State Hospital.

Cody spent the next several months at the state hospital and they got his meds regulated and released him to a group home in Portland for about a year. He blew out of there and was sent to Bend, where after several ER visits, ended up in the Oregon State Correctional Institute. He is doing well there.

In the midst of all this, he has accepted Jesus and is keeping his mind set in scripture, prayer and piano playing. However, it would have been much less traumatic for our son and our family if he had been able to get the help he needed instead of becoming involved with the criminal justice system.