



From the Desk of
Representative
Cedric Hayden

To: Rep Nosse, Senator Lee Beyer, Rep Cedric Hayden,

Re: HB 2831 - Establishing Peer Respite for People with Mental Health Conditions

The Democratic Party of Multnomah County supports House Bill (HB) 2831, which establishes three peer respite pilot projects to strengthen crisis service options for adults in Oregon with a mental health condition.

The peer respite model is a cost-saving hospital diversion service that has been implemented successfully in the array of care in 14 other states. These short-term, overnight services staffed by trained and certified peer support specialists are particularly well-suited for people falling through the gaps in Oregon's current continuum of mental health care: people seeking crisis help voluntarily but do not meet eligibility or commitment criteria for existing clinical residential services; people who avoid mental health services for trauma or fear reasons; and people who are homeless or have other complex needs that do not fit well with appointment-based outpatient services.

This measure supports the following adopted 2018 Democratic Party of Multnomah County Platform Planks and Legislative Action Items:

- Platform Article IV. Social Security and Health, Plank 7:

We support publicly funded Mental Health Crisis Services and call on our elected officials to reestablish a comprehensive mental health and behavioral care system.

- Legislative Action Item Article VIII. Justice, Plank 5:

We call on state, counties and cities to significantly increase appropriations to programs that diverts people from incarceration, such as addiction and mental health treatment, domestic violence services, alternative to incarceration programs, and re-entry services.

Please schedule a hearing and work session.

Sincerely,

Lurrelle Robbins, Chair, Democratic Party of Multnomah County

Faith Ruffing, Chair, Platform, Resolutions and Legislative Committee



JUN 06 2019

3551 NE SANDY BLVD, PORTLAND, OR 97232