

David S. Wall
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March 24, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery; others

Re: I OPPOSE [SB 680]. *"Peer respite services" should not be located in residential neighborhoods.*

The "Text: [Page 1 at (5-15)]" states, " SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section: (a) "Peer respite services" means voluntary, residential peer support provided in a home-like setting to individuals with mental illness who are experiencing acute distress, anxiety or emotional pain that may lead to the need for inpatient hospital services. (b) "Peer-run organization" means a nonprofit organization that provides a venue for support and advocacy among consumers of mental health treatment. (c) "Peer support" means assistance provided by individuals who are current or former consumers of mental health treatment in: (A) Addressing financial problems and other issues affecting the social determinants of health; and (B) Managing trauma using natural supports."

****Are residents in neighborhoods apprised as to the "Peer-run organizations" operating in their neighborhoods?**

****Are residents in neighborhoods apprised as to the potential violent, mentally ill adults coming into their neighborhoods to receive "Peer support" from cured "crazies?"**

****Who is liable for any crimes committed upon persons and or properties by the "clients" of the "Peer-run organizations," the Oregon Health Authority, the "Peer-run organizations" and the tortfeasor?**

The "Text: [Page 2 at (2-5)]" states, "SECTION 2. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$2.25 million, which shall be expended for providing \$750,000 to each peer respite center as described in section 1 of this 2021 Act."

****\$2.25 Million dollars out of the General Fund...for starters?**

****Pretty pricy program and lucrative business opportunities for specific nonprofit corporations to the detriment of adjacent and surrounding residential property owners.**

****With all the money appropriated to a multitude of "give-away programs," it appears none of the legislators have the slightest decency to provide exceptional educational services to advance and make easier the lives of the; Hard of hearing, Deaf and Blind children. But, legislators will gladly place potentially violent, mentally ill persons into residential neighborhoods. And people wonder why Oregon is a screwed-up state.**

****Was \$2.25 Million appropriated from the General Fund to provide exceptional educational services to advance and make easier the lives of the; Hard of hearing, Deaf and Blind children of [HB 3183]?**

Of course not.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ David S. Wall

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