



February 8th, 2022

To: Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation

RE: Oregon Senate Bill 1568 - Early Compassionate Medical Release

Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee,

We, the undersigned health professionals and public health advocates in Oregon, support SB 1568 Compassionate Medical Release and its necessary updates to compassionate medical release laws for incarcerated Oregonians. Current policies recognize that it is in the best interest of our communities for incarcerated Oregonians to be released when, due to medical conditions, their continued incarceration is inhumane and no longer furthers the purposes of imprisonment; however, it is our belief as medical professionals and health advocates that the current eligibility criteria are too narrow, the application process is unclear, and the review of applications by non-health professionals is ineffective. To improve the current laws and achieve just health outcomes for incarcerated individuals, we support SB 1568 and its creation of an independent Medical Release Advisory Committee (MRAC) of 7-13 licensed medical professionals.

We urge Oregon legislators to adopt SB 1568 and its plan to improve upon the compassionate medical release laws for incarcerated Oregonians:

- The MRAC will have rule-making authority to ensure they can fully and meaningfully implement the mandates of this policy. This change will allow for a functional compassionate release mechanism that is accessible and navigable to the adults in custody (AICs) who are in need of compassionate release.
- A release navigator position will be created. This position shall be implemented to assist AICs with re-entry planning and ensure continuity of care in the community.
- If the MRAC recommends release, the applicant will be appointed counsel to assist them with the release court and the Board of Parole's review. This shall give AICs a fair and just route to release, as the current process remains daunting and inaccessible to most AICs and their loved ones.

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

The US affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Recipient of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize

4110 SE Hawthorne Blvd. #758 Portland, OR 97214

Tel: 503-274-2720 info@oregonpsr.org www.oregonpsr.org



- The sentencing courts and the Board of Parole can affirm MRAC's recommendation for release or deny release. The Board of Parole will retain the ability to weigh in on release recommendations if they find, by clear and convincing evidence, that the AIC poses a danger to the safety of another person or the public and the danger outweighs any compassionate reasons for the release.

SB 1568 is a vital step to eliminating the injustices endured by incarcerated individuals that have been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. We urge its passage by the Oregon State Legislature.

Sincerely,

John Gillette, MD Doctor of Medicine

Linda Donnelly

Pamela Vasquez

Susan Heath

William Steven Herz, MD

George Feldman, MD

Jenny Pompilio MD, MPH

Buck Clarke

Harry Kershner, retired LVN

Edith Montgomery, OTR retired

Dana Weintraub

Katy Morrow

Elizabeth Erin Kelley

Anthony Albert

Ian Shelley

Sean Tenney

Virginia Feldman, MD

Saliha Abrams, LMT

Laura Walsh

Lynn Cardiff

Tangela Purdom

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

The US affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Recipient of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize

4110 SE Hawthorne Blvd. #758 Portland, OR 97214

Tel: 503-274-2720 info@oregonpsr.org www.oregonpsr.org



Marianne Mauldin, Physical Therapist Assistant
Marshall Goldberg, MD, MPH
Marilyn Keller
Mary Peterson
Dennis Sweeney, MD
Ed Averill
Ruth Dallas, RN
Randall Webb
Joel Kay, Physician (MD)
Mary Lynn O'Brien, M.D.
Tod Boyer
Brent Rocks
Karen Deora
Rich Iwasaki
Elijah Cetas
Sandi Meyer
Elizabeth Darby
Annette White-Parks, phd
John Nettleton
David Newman, M.S.N., F.N.P.
Tara Ohta
Melinda Strnad, MD
Marian Fish, DC, DABCO, CCSP
Regna Merritt, PA - retired
Mary Scott, ND, LAc
Gary Pederson, DDS, MSD
Philip Ratcliff
Cecil Prescod
Philip Newman, MD, FACS
Janice Sakofsky
Mick Alderman
Cassie Cohen
Harry Kershner, LVN
Diana Boss, MD

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

The US affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Recipient of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize

4110 SE Hawthorne Blvd. #758 Portland, OR 97214

Tel: 503-274-2720 info@oregonpsr.org www.oregonpsr.org



Dana Merrill
Claudia Martin, MD
Diane Whitney , MD
Marie Soller, MD
Lynn Edwards, MD (retired)
Ann Turner, MD
Thomas Karwaki
Tacey Conover

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

The US affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Recipient of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize

4110 SE Hawthorne Blvd. #758 Portland, OR 97214

Tel: 503-274-2720 info@oregonpsr.org www.oregonpsr.org

