

Submitter: Patty Dorroh
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB2431

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Thank you Honorable Chair, Vice Chairs and Members of the Committee:
My name is Patty Dorroh, and I'm a Harney County Commissioner. I'm providing written testimony today to support House Bill-2431.
Please support HB-2431.

This is a first step in preventing interruption or denial of the provision of medical and behavioral health services to correction facility incarcerated individuals pre-trial. Until conviction, such pretrial incarcerated individuals are presumed innocent and should not have any medical benefits denied or terminated.

Please pursue this, and then continue to find ways to enable Oregon Health Authority, Medicare, Medicaid, and Veterans health benefits to remain intact when individuals are incarcerated at the local county and city jails as well. The majority of pretrial individuals usually need either the start of, or continuation of, medical and behavioral services from pretrial through long term incarceration. If there are even more comprehensive ways to eliminate the interruptive suspensions and terminations of services that occur with justice involved individuals so that a continuum of care is the result, please pursue those initiatives as well.

One question: Is there a way to shorten the timeframe for OHA to move on its action and reporting to the Legislature (no later than Sept 15, 2024 as currently proposed)? If so, please amend to reflect a higher priority.

Thank you for reading this. Your support and work on this is important and humane. I sincerely appreciate your efforts!

Thank you, Commissioner Patty Dorroh