



**Testimony in support of SB 432**  
**Consumer involvement in BH system policy**

March 1, 2023

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP), representing CMHPs statewide, who manage the local behavioral health safety net and provide a wide array of services for people in their communities, I am writing to express our strong support for SB 432. CMHPs rely on input from community members to assess the need for services and supports, to provide appropriate services, and to ensure the best possible health and quality of life outcomes.

We know people who are current clients of the behavioral health system have a unique perspective to contribute to statewide policy initiatives that aim to increase access and delivery of behavioral health services across the state. SB 432 provides a systematic way to ensure consumer involvement in state behavioral health system policy through peer run organizations that will provide outreach, engagement and technical assistance for consumer representatives who would like to be involved in statewide policy decisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 432.

Sincerely,

Cherryl L. Ramirez  
Executive Director, AOCMHP