

CASCADIA ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

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CASCADIAHEALTH.ORG

March 1, 2023

The Hon. Deb Patterson
The Hon. Cedric Hayden
Members of the Committee
Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Senate Bill 432-1

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

On behalf of Cascadia Health—the state’s largest community behavioral health provider serving adults, children, seniors, and families—I would like to offer our enthusiastic support for Senate Bill 432-1, which relies on the voice of consumers to improve behavioral health services and support.

Expanding and supporting consumer engagement and equitable participation in behavioral health services planning and policy development is something Cascadia Health feels is core to the future of integrated health care. This bill will establish a community-based, consumer-run technical assistance center that will train and inform consumers of public behavioral health services on the technical aspects of service systems and policy. In addition, the center will offer ongoing recruitment, training and mentoring for those who are interested in sharing their insights from lived experience—an important step toward empowering consumer voice.

Led and staffed by individuals with lived experience themselves, the center will establish a representative pipeline for knowledge and timely input from those of diverse backgrounds, including BIPOC communities, the LGBTQ2S+ community, those from various geographical landscapes, those who have been formerly incarcerated, those with dual diagnoses, veterans, and others—informing strategies around accommodations, recovery, and advocacy.

My own advocacy efforts truly began when I became a Peer. Through the training I received, and by virtue of working for an organization that values lived experience, I found and learned the importance of my own voice. A center like this would connect and empower other service users and magnify their voices, a critical component to creating systems that supports recovery and wellness.

Cascadia Health urges passage of SB 432-1 to authorize the Oregon Health Authority to develop, implement and administer this initiative aimed at increasing and optimizing consumer involvement in planning and decision-making around access to, and delivery of, behavioral health services in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Molly Griggs, PWS, CRM
Senior Director of Peer Delivered Services
Cascadia Health