



Testimony in support of HB 2544
Increasing number of licensed residential facilities

March 13, 2023

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, 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, I am writing to express our strong support for additional licensed residential capacity, as introduced in HB 2544. CMHPs rely on an array of appropriate residential placements to help individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders remain in their communities while they receive community restoration services, treatment, and social services to support their recovery.

Increasing licensed residential capacity is also a key solution to decreasing the numbers of justice-involved individuals at the Oregon State Hospital. We appreciate the investments made by the Legislature in the last two years, and we will need a comparable investment this session in the residential and housing array to adequately serve the increasing number of people who are unable to aid and assist in their own defense and for people with co-occurring disorders.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2544.

Sincerely,

Cherryl L. Ramirez
Executive Director, AOCMHP