

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Subj: Testimony supporting Oregon HB 4139 Mental Health and Addiction Clinics to be built without the Oregon Health Administration's (OHA) Certificate of Need.

**Credentials:** I am a retired Navy Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman with over twenty-plus years of medical experience. Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration from Concordia, class of 2005. Previous Administrator experience in Long-term Care at Grace Place Assisted Living in Estacada Oregon, with a certificate in Dementia care.

**Testimony:** OHA's certificate of need was supposed to limit Healthcare facility growth to prevent unnecessary expenditures on high-cost equipment like CT scans and overgrowth of hospital beds. The "Certificates of Need" created a huge bureaucratic nightmare in trying to get large projects approved and built on time to support the public.

Oregon and the rest of the United States are in crisis mode trying to figure out how to support the explosion of Homelessness, Fentanyl, and other drug addictions, and mental health crises. We clearly see Zombies on the sidewalks. Law Enforcement and First responders when responding to these crises have nowhere to take these people, since they have no healthcare, and most importantly there are no beds for these stricken people.

HB 4139 would at least get us a shot in the arm to build these much-needed Mental Health and addiction clinics. How many more Oregonians have to die on the street while waiting for these beds? Granted it won't happen overnight, but approving HB 4139 will remove the bureaucratic red tape in approving these facilities without the "Certificate of Need" requirement.

Respectfully,

S. Flynn Phillips

HMCS, USN, Ret