

Testimony for 1530 Recovery Housing Funding

Good morning Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Senate Housing Committee members.

Our agency, West Coast Sober Housing, provides structured and supportive sober housing services to members of our recovery community here in Portland, OR. Our organization has 6 recovery homes with a total of 74 beds – 14 of those beds are for our LGBTQIA2S+ non-gendered community. We are NARR certified, we have two house managers on site at every location, and our agency not only supports sobriety, but also offers case management services for family reunification, job searches, referrals to outside support groups, referrals to mental health and substance abuse treatment, peer services, and more.

Currently, all our houses are full - we are turning people away daily. The majority of the folks calling our organization, seeking supportive housing services, are living on the streets, or in their car, at a shelter, 'crashing' on someone's couch, or being discharged from a detox center or hospital with no where to go.

These are people who want to get sober, they want somewhere safe to go, and they all tell us they can't get sober where they are now. It is extremely disheartening to realize that the majority of these Portlanders will continue to use or drink, stuck in a vicious cycle, because there are not enough recovery-oriented options for them at this time. Please vote yes on HB 1530, so that the recovery housing infrastructure can be expanded, and our community members are gifted a safe and sober environment to call home. This is such an important and lifesaving bill.

Thank you,

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Executive Director
West Coast Sober Housing