

Submitter: Bo Brinson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2239

TO: Oregon Housing Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
FROM: Bo Bronson, Executive Director, Oregon Recovers

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Javadi, and Nelson,

My name is Bo Brinson, and I am the Executive Director of Oregon Recovers, a state-wide non-profit organization that aims to end the addiction crisis by increasing access to effective care. That is why we endorse HB 2239.

Recovery Housing is critical to ending our addiction crisis. It provides a housing environment where people recovering from substance use disorder can be supported by others on the same journey. This element of the recovery process is as important as clinical interventions, and recovery housing provides unique opportunities to blend the two practices in a variety of ways that increase treatment effectiveness, reduce overdoses and homelessness, and promote self-sufficiency in recovering people.

Oregon's recovery housing sector faces two problems: access and effectiveness. The legislature and some local governments across Oregon have taken steps to increase access, and this bill takes steps to create effectiveness by leveraging national practices to institute safeguards for taxpayers and consumers.

Failure to take action could result in Oregon tax dollars being wasted by fraudsters like Florida, Arizona, and California. One example in Arizona, Native Americans were recruited into fake sober livings, and the organization billed for millions to Medicaid. This not only wasted taxpayers' funds but robbed people with substance use disorder the opportunity to overcome their plight. We need trusted operators in our state, so Oregon Recovers supports this bill.

Lawmakers can substantially reduce the chances of major sober living scandals by adopting national standards that industry leaders endorse and operators voluntarily utilize.

Please vote Yes on HB 2239.

Bo Brinson, Executive Director - Oregon Recovers