

March 12, 2025

CareOregon Support for HB 2239

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Nelson and Javati, & Members of the Committee,

CareOregon is a community non-profit organization serving over 500,000 Oregonians covered by the Oregon Health Plan. We have served Oregonians for over 30 years. CareOregon wholly owns two coordinated care organizations (CCOs), Jackson Care Connect and Columbia Pacific CCO. We are a founding member of Health Share of Oregon, managing an integrated community network and the behavioral health benefit for all Health Share of Oregon members in the Portland Metro area.

CareOregon supports HB 2239 and our OHP members' access to recovery housing meeting nationally recognized standards. Recovery housing plays a crucial role in the continuum of care for individuals overcoming substance use disorders. When these facilities adhere to national quality standards, they become powerful tools for sustained recovery. The implementation of consistent standards across recovery housing serves multiple essential purposes:

- National standards establish minimum requirements for physical safety, ethical practices, and programmatic integrity that protect residents during a highly vulnerable phase of their lives.
- Quality standards also create accountability mechanisms. When recovery houses operate within a framework of established standards, their performance can be measured, evaluated, and improved. This accountability extends to our stewardship of public funds. When housing providers operate according to established quality benchmarks, CCOs can contract with confidence that residents will receive appropriate support.
- From a systems perspective, standardization allows for more effective integration of recovery housing into the behavioral health continuum of care. Access to quality recovery housing can lessen the demand for residential treatment beds and allow providers to be practicing at the top of their license.

We urge your support for HB 2239 as we collectively work towards ensuring our OHP members receive the quality of care they deserve.

Thank you,

Stefan Shearer
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CareOregon