

Andrew Melton
melton.construction2@gmail.com
North Bend, Oregon

I am a current member of Oxford House Coos Bay in North Bend, Oregon. Oxford House Coos Bay stands in firm opposition to HB 2239 due to concerns that the bill could undermine the well-established and successful recovery housing model that Oxford House has provided in Oregon for decades. Our opposition is based on the following key points:

1. Recognition of Oxford House Certification – Oxford House Inc. has a longstanding and proven certification process that ensures accountability, structure, and a supportive recovery environment. We believe this should be recognized as equivalent to NARR (National Alliance for Recovery Residences) certification. Any legislation that imposes additional certification requirements could disrupt operations and create unnecessary barriers for individuals seeking recovery housing.

2. Preserving a Diverse Recovery Housing Landscape – Oxford House operates under a unique self-governing, peer-support model, which has successfully helped thousands of individuals maintain long-term sobriety. Recovery is not one-size-fits-all, and it is essential that multiple housing models remain available to serve the diverse needs of those in recovery. HB 2239 could limit options by favoring specific certification processes that may not align with Oxford House's effective model.

3. Oxford House's Proven Impact in Oregon – With 236 houses across 24 counties and over 2,000 residents, Oxford House has demonstrated its effectiveness in providing a stable and structured environment for individuals in recovery. Disrupting this model with new regulatory barriers could displace residents and reduce the availability of critical housing options at a time when Oregon is already facing significant challenges in addiction recovery services.

4. Concerns Over the Effects of HB 2239 – This bill, as proposed, raises concerns about potential interference in Oxford House's operations, added regulatory burdens, and the risk of limiting access to proven recovery solutions. We urge policymakers to consider the success of Oxford House and ensure that any legislation supports, rather than restricts, access to diverse and effective recovery housing models.

Oxford House Coos Bay urges legislators to recognize the vital role Oxford House plays in Oregon's recovery landscape and to ensure that HB 2239 does not create unintended obstacles for individuals in need of supportive, self-governing recovery housing.