

Submitter: Scott Poole
On Behalf Of: Oxford House
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2239

Scott Poole and autzen house members
1240 River Rd Eugene Oregon 97404

I oppose bill HB 2239
3/12/2025

I am writing to express my profound gratitude for the life-changing impact Oxford House has had on me. Before I found Oxford, I was lost in the chaos of addiction, my life spiraling out of control. Today, I stand before you, clean and sober, with a renewed sense of purpose, and I owe a significant part of that transformation to the principles and structure of Oxford House.

My journey to recovery began with a desperate need for a safe and supportive environment. Oxford House provided exactly that. It wasn't just a place to live; it was a community, a family built on shared experience and mutual support. The democratic structure, the self-governance, and the emphasis on financial responsibility instilled in me a sense of ownership and accountability that I had long lost.

Living within the Oxford model has fundamentally changed my perspective on life. I learned the importance of:

- * Peer Support: Sharing my struggles and victories with others who understood what I was going through was invaluable. It broke down the isolation that addiction thrives in and showed me that I was not alone.

- * Personal Responsibility: The emphasis on self-support and contributing to the house's upkeep taught me to be responsible for my actions and my recovery.

- * Democracy and Accountability: Participating in house meetings and decision-making processes gave me a voice and a sense of belonging, fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility.

- * The Power of Community: I witnessed firsthand the power of individuals coming together to support one another in achieving a common goal. This experience has taught me the importance of community in all aspects of life.

Beyond my personal transformation, I've come to understand the vital role Oxford Houses play in the broader recovery landscape. Keeping an Oxford House open means:

- * Providing a safe and affordable living environment for individuals seeking long-term recovery.

- * Offering a structured and supportive community that fosters personal growth and accountability.

* Empowering individuals to take control of their lives and become productive members of society.

* Giving those that struggle with substance use disorder a real chance at a new life.

I now understand that keeping an Oxford house open is not just about keeping a building open, it is about keeping a lifeline open for those struggling with addiction. It is about providing a space for hope, healing, and transformation.

I am committed to supporting Oxford House's mission and ensuring that others have the same opportunity for a new life that I was given. Whether it's through volunteering, spreading awareness, or simply sharing my story, I will always be grateful for the impact Oxford House has had on my life.

Thank you for providing a foundation for my recovery and for your unwavering commitment to helping others.

Sincerely,

Scott poole