

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

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Jacob Peoples, and I am the House President of Breeze Hill Oxford House in Medford, Oregon. I am writing today with the utmost urgency and heartfelt conviction to oppose HB 2239, which threatens the very foundation of Oxford House and the life-saving opportunities it provides for individuals like me who are dedicated to long-term recovery.

Oxford House is not just a recovery residence—it is a lifeline, a community, and a family that has given countless individuals, including myself, the opportunity to reclaim our lives from the grips of addiction. The self-governing, self-sustaining model of Oxford House is what makes it work. It empowers people in recovery to be accountable, responsible, and truly independent. Unlike traditional recovery residences that operate under the control of staff or owners, Oxford House members hold each other accountable, support one another through the ups and downs of recovery, and learn the essential life skills needed to thrive beyond addiction.

Before Oxford House, many of us had nowhere to go. We were facing homelessness, battling stigma, and trying to rebuild our lives with limited resources. In Oxford House, we found stability, structure, and support from others who truly understand what it means to fight for recovery. This model has been successful for over 50 years, backed by research that proves it generates higher long-term abstinence rates than any other substance use disorder intervention. The freedom and responsibility it offers are crucial to our success.

As the President of Breeze Hill Oxford House, I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact this model has had on our members. I have seen individuals enter our home lost and hopeless, only to find purpose, employment, reunification with their

families, and most importantly—sustained sobriety. This house, like so many Oxford Houses across Oregon, has been a sanctuary where people transform their lives, find self-worth, and become productive members of society.

HB 2239 is a direct threat to the Oxford House model. By forcing Oxford House to adhere to NARR standards and making OHI's certification secondary, the bill discredits decades of proven success and risks discouraging referrals, limiting financial assistance for members, and jeopardizing our ability to continue serving those in need. Oxford House and NARR serve two completely different models, and it is imperative that both certifications remain equally recognized in Oregon.

If this bill passes as written, it could limit access to Oxford Houses for future residents who desperately need this level of peer-driven recovery. It could undermine the independence and empowerment that make Oxford House so effective. And most devastatingly, it could mean that countless individuals in recovery are left without the safe and structured environment they need to heal.

I urge you to stand with us, protect the Oxford House model, and oppose HB 2239 unless it recognizes OHI certification on equal footing with NARR. Oxford House saves lives, and we cannot allow bureaucratic decisions to dismantle a program that has given so many of us a second chance at life.

Respectfully and passionately,

Jacob Peoples

President, Breeze Hill Oxford House

Medford, Oregon