

Representative Susan McLain

House District 29



May 11, 2021

Senate Committee on Human Services, Mental Health, and Recovery

Re: Support for House Bill 2953

Chair Gelser, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to you today about House Bill 2953, the Community Based Structured Housing Fix bill, which requires adequate oversight of community wrap-around services. It passed in the House with unanimous support in both committee and on the floor and I thank you for your consideration of it today.

In 2015, the Legislature passed House Bill 3230 regarding the oversight of these community programs. While in theory HB3230 closed a regulatory gap in Oregon's wrap-around programs, implementation has been problematic. Many of the groups that should have been required to register for oversight after the 2015 bill passed have still NOT registered with the state.

After conferring with the Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Housing and Community Services, the two agencies that oversee this type of housing, we are introducing HB2953 to bring clarity to the definition of Community Based Structured Housing and provide OHA and OHCS better direction regarding which programs require registration.

Both agencies agree that we need new language to outline their overlapping responsibilities so that they can work together to ensure that residents in their units are receiving appropriate access to much-needed services. They also agree that there needs to be a stronger incentive for these groups to register with the state, which is why we are introducing the A4 amendment, which imposes a \$5,000 penalty for CBSH services that do not register.

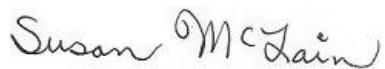
This bill would close the loophole that has allowed some facilities to NOT register with the state, which leaves our medically vulnerable population in unsafe and unmonitored environments - environments that are intended to support them.

Today I ask you to pass this bill so we can hold these facilities accountable for the life-changing services and adequate care that are intended to provide to Oregonians who need them the most.

I want to thank Linda Mokler and Judi Palumbo for bringing this problem to my attention and their tireless work. I would also like to thank Nicole Singh and Cissie Bollinger with the agencies for their invaluable input, and my co-sponsors Senator Frederick and Senator Riley for their advocacy and support.

Thank you for considering this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan McLain". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Susan" on top and "McLain" below it, slightly overlapping.

Representative Susan McLain