



Date: Mar 12, 2025

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Nelson and Javadi, Members of the Committee,

OCBH is the statewide association of providers that serve individuals living with the chronic diseases of addiction and mental illness. It is likely the behavioral health providers in your districts are members of OCBH.

We write to you in support of HB 2239, which seeks to establish nationally recognized standards for Oregon's recovery housing providers. OCBH supports the utilization of national accreditation where possible to ensure Oregon's providers have access to the best evidence-based practices, to ensure high standards for care, and to reduce duplicative administrative burden. The National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) establishes operating standards and ethical practices that support client welfare and administrative competency for Oregon's providers.

This legislation provides Oregon's healthcare payers, including CCOs, with a guarantee Oregon's recovery housing has met national standards and has the approval of MHACBO, which currently effectively certifies much of Oregon's behavioral health workforce.

Recovery housing access and quality is critical to expanding access and filling the state's identified gaps in residential capacity. We know that many individuals coming out of withdrawal management could be effectively served in recovery housing in lieu of taking one of the few residential substance use disorder beds available in our current system. This step to professionalizing the sector is the first step toward expanding the access we need to serve all Oregonians with substance use disorders.

With an estimated cost of \$175 annually, this is a necessary, but not burdensome step to professionalize our Recovery Housing providers.

We urge your support of HB 2239.

Heather Jefferis
Executive Director
Oregon Council for Behavioral Health