



Chair Dexter
Vice-Chair Helfrich
Vice-Chair Gamba
Members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

Testimony in Support of HB 2506 – Siting behavioral health housing

Dear Chair Dexter, Vice-Chair Helfrich, Vice-Chair Gamba and members of the committee:

My name is Anna Braun with Braun Law LLC and I represent GOBHI Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc. **GOBHI supports HB 2506.**

GOBHI is a behavioral health and social services network serving in 12 rural/frontier counties with the goal of empowering individuals and communities to achieve better health. GOBHI was established in 1994 and is a non-profit organization.

Unfortunately, GOBHI has seen first-hand how local governments have blocked housing projects for behavioral health because of pressure from residents. Treating behavioral housing differently than other types of housing is illegal under the Federal Fair Housing Act. (Please see the [Oregon Attorney General's Opinion](#) from 1991 submitted to OLIS).

As you all know, we have a critical need for all types of behavioral health housing. This legislature has dedicated hundreds of millions of dollars to needed housing. (Please see the [OHA presentation on behavioral health housing](#) submitted to OLIS).

HB 2506 is needed to make sure these investments are not blocked or delayed by local governments.

Thank you.