

Behavioral Health Enhancements

Background

Despite significant investments in 2021, 2023 and 2024, Oregon continues to experience deficiencies in behavioral health services for its residents in need. While resources and system capacity account for many of the challenges facing Oregonians needing care, statutory roadblocks continue to be an issue. Of particular concern for cities and other local governments is the high legal bar that must be met to civilly commit a person who presents a danger to themselves or others. Additionally, the number of secure treatment beds available for the people requiring this high degree of care is insufficient to meet the demand in all parts of the state.

Concern

Oregon civil commitment standards are onerous to the point of leading to negative outcomes for patients and there aren't enough secure treatment beds to meet the need.

Solution

Amend Oregon's civil commitment law to allow persons whose mental state will lead to ongoing safety concerns to be civilly committed and ensure the state has sufficient capacity to successfully treat these patients.

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