

Dear Ms. Thiele-Cirka,

I am the mother and legal guardian of a son with mental illness. Today I am writing to you about House Bill 2825. While housing for people with mental illness is very much needed I have serious concerns that many (if not all) of the supported housing properties in Multnomah County are being purchased in outer southeast Portland. My son was given no other options but to move into a supported housing apartment that wasn't cleaned before moving in, is 10 feet from a school playground, is dark and poorly maintained. When the children are outside it is impossible to have a conversation in his apartment because of the noise level. As a result my son is very stressed. His apartment does not support that mental health of anyone!

The county representative tells me that there is no oversight for unlicensed facilities and one scheduled audit every two years in licensed facilities.

Please consider:

1. the need for oversight in siting the facilities in different areas of Portland as well as around the state
2. the need for regular inspections and the requirement that the housing is safe and property maintained
3. the importance of providing facilities based on the needs of the clients (My son's care has cost the State of Oregon millions of dollars over the years in part because of the lack of appropriate community support. He has type 1 diabetes as well as mental illness and has sustained a traumatic brain injury.)

My son has needed the services of the mental health system for more than twenty years. While the treatment of patients is changing for the better at Oregon State Hospital change has not come to community mental health programs. His mental health provider continues to be unwilling to work with his guardians to provide a treatment plan based on his strength and challenges. Please let me know if you would like further information. As my son's legal guardian I have access to records that aren't available to family members.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Kimberly Wrolstad

Legal Guardian