



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Medical Board

1500 S.W. 1st Ave., Suite 620
Portland, OR 97201
Voice: (971) 673-2700
Fax: (971) 673-2670
www.oregon.gov/OMB

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 2130

**House Committee on Health Care
Rep. Mitch Greenlick, Chair
February 8, 2013**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2130, which would make changes to the impaired health professional program.

Thank you, Rep. Greenlick, for introducing this bill and for your work with the four health regulatory boards currently participating in the Health Professionals' Services Program (HPSP). The bill's language includes contributions from the Medical Board, the Board of Nursing, the Board of Dentistry, the Pharmacy Board, the Oregon Medical Association and the Oregon Psychiatric Association.

Currently, the HPSP does not distinguish between enrolled professionals with a mental health diagnosis and those with a substance use disorder or a combination of these. As a result, all enrollees are required to submit to random drug and alcohol testing. HB 2130 would exempt enrollees with solely a mental health diagnosis from this testing unless the licensing board requires it.

Second, under the current statute, enrolled licensees who are admitted to a healthcare facility for mental health treatment are reported to their licensing board as "substantially noncompliant" with their monitoring agreement. Under this bill, only civil commitments would result in a report of "substantial noncompliance."

The cost of the program has risen substantially. This bill would remove some of the program's assessment and evaluation responsibilities. In addition, the participating health regulatory boards would have the option of whether or not to allow licensees to self-refer to the program.

Participating health boards would have the ability to "review" reports of substantial noncompliance rather than "investigate" these reports. This will allow the licensees to avoid the full investigatory process if, for example, the licensee could not reach the testing facility on one occasion because he or she was working a 12-hour shift.

Finally, the HPSP is limited to monitoring enrolled licensees. For those licensing boards who wish to allow for treatment of licensees with a mental health diagnosis or substance use disorder, this bill would clarify that the boards are able to contract with a treatment program separate from the HPSP monitoring program.

**THE OREGON MEDICAL BOARD RESPECTFULLY
REQUESTS A "DO PASS" RECOMMENDATION ON HB 2130.**

Nicole Krishnaswami, JD
Operations & Policy Analyst