



TO: Oregon House Health Care Committee
FR: Stephen Rogers, MFT, Treasurer COPACT
DA: February 27, 2013
RE: Support for HB 2768

The Oregon Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, the Oregon Association of Counselors and the Coalition of Oregon Professional Associations of Counselors and Therapists support House Bill 2768.

My colleague has testified regarding the definitional changes to the practice act proposed in HB 2768. I will address the proposed modifications between the training requirements of Professional Licensed Counselors and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists.

The number of years of training to become an LPC or an LMFT is the same. However, the number of years it takes to get that license post graduation differs. The LPC takes two years and the LMFT takes three years post graduation. This bill seeks to create parity in the timeline for each license, using the LPC as the standard--one year of internship in graduate school and two years post graduate supervised work. We believe the 2,400 hours required for licensure with supervision and a minimum of three years experience is a strong and realistic standard.

HB 2768 modifies the law to recognize that the similarity between the two professions in education, training and practice standards is significant and does not warrant treating the two professions differently in terms of the timeline for licensure.

HB 2768 is an important part of strengthening and streamlining the Practice Act of 2009 by bringing parity in the licensing process for LPC's and LMFT's.

I urge the Committee's support of HB 2768. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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