

**Oregon Senate Bill 430**

Testimony Before the Oregon Senate Committee on Human Services and Early  
Childhood

78th Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session

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**Testimony by:**

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**SB 430 Title:** Relating to licensure of mental health professionals.

**Catchline/ Summary for SB 430:** Authorizes State Board of Psychologist Examiners to withhold license to practice from applicant who has been convicted of sex crime. Authorizes State Board of Licensed Social Workers to withhold license, certification or registration to practice from applicant who has been convicted of sex crime. Authorizes Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists to withhold license to practice from applicant who has been convicted of sex crime.

Position: **Against, due to lack of transparency in the presentation of this bill.**

Dear Senators,

Good government requires an informed public. On the surface, SB 430 seems fine to me. But this is only on the surface. An informed citizen needs time and opportunity to consider government action so as to issue informed opinions and to discover potential problems with proposals which seem fine at first glance.

The passage of SB 430 would affect laws governing the practice of those licensed by 3 ostensibly separate Mental Health boards which are at present all operating under a single Executive Director. The Executive Director is Randy Harnisch, a person who has a record of actively directing or participating in the impedance of public participation in government.

The 3 Mental Health boards he presently oversees, the licensees of which would be affected by the changes in statute this bill proposes, are the Oregon Board of Psychologist Examiners (OBPE), the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors (OBLPCT), and The [Oregon] Board of Licensed Social Workers (BLSW).

Not a single one of these Boards posted word one about this matter on their websites despite having every opportunity to do so and despite the fact that it would have been

very easy to do, and despite the fact that in the name of transparency, it would have been the right thing to do, congruent with the Oregon Way of Government.

The bill is a rather silly one in that I am sure it is redundant and the authority to withhold licensure from convicted sex offenders is already given to these Boards by law. I don't want baby-killers to be allowed licensure, but I see no special bill being proposed which specifically states these boards can withhold licenses from applicants who have been convicted of baby-killing. Do we need to explicitly list every crime for which licenses can be lawfully withheld? If so, then we are being quite remiss.

It is also curious, if importance is being afforded these amendments that the author(s) of this bill did not include the licensees of ALL boards - especially the boards regulating the licenses in ALL health care professions.

It is no accident that this bill is designed only to affect the 3 boards which operate under a single Executive Director - the same Executive Director who is responsible for facilitating transparency in government in his domain, and the same Executive director who failed to post ANYTHING AT ALL about this bill on ANY of the 3 Board websites.

I object to the passage of this bill due to the lack of transparency surrounding it.

I recommend Mr. Harnisch go back, post information about this bill on the 3 Board websites he oversees, and that this bill be reconsidered only after he has done so.

Thank you for hearing my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Christian Wolff  
(Contact information is at the top of this document)