



## **Statement in Support of Senate Bill 1558**

**The Oregon Psychological Association would like to express our strong support for SB 1558.**

As psychologists, we place the highest importance on assuring the confidentiality of information provided by clients seeking mental health treatment. The bill's requirement that colleges and universities are prohibited from obtaining records of confidential communications between individuals seeking treatment for mental health conditions and their treatment providers is critically important in order for students to feel comfortable accessing needed mental health services. Further, we support this law's definition that health records, mental health records or counseling records of students may not be considered student records by colleges or universities.

Our position is consistent with statements made by the American Psychological Association (APA) on this issue. APA has asserted that without a requirement for confidentiality of records, individuals who are in need of mental health treatment will be less likely to seek these services. We argue that individuals who seek mental health treatment deserve the right to privacy, regardless of where these services are provided.

**We urge you to pass SB 1558 that will assure the confidentiality of records related to services provided to individuals seeking mental health treatment on college and university campuses.**