

Testimony submitted via email.

Dear House Health Care Committee members,

I am a licensed clinical psychologist practicing in the Portland, Oregon area. I specialize in geriatrics and see hundreds of patients a year, many of whom need access to prescribing psychiatric providers. There is a dearth of trained professionals who are able to provide these services, so many times I have no resources for them and can only suggest that they go on a waiting list or see a provider who does not specialize in what they need. This lack of professional resources is damaging to all Oregonians, whether they are the patients who are suffering, loved ones who are helpless in their quest to assist, or the general public who are impacted by mental and physical illness and the corresponding impact on us all.

Adding specially trained psychologists will increase capacity and access statewide, and particularly in rural communities where there are often no psychiatric resources. The change initiated by HB 3355 also promotes health care transformation efforts to integrate physical and mental health in primary care, where most people present for psychiatric problems.

Please make a decision to support HB 3355.

Thank you,

Amy Friday

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