

Testimony submitted via email.

Hello -

I am writing to ask for your support of HB 3355, which would allow specially trained psychologists to prescribe medications related to mental disorders. As I am sure you already know, there is currently a shortage of prescribing clinicians in many rural areas of Oregon, with many designated as medical shortage areas according to HHS. Granting clinical psychologists authority to prescribe would help alleviate this problem. Psychologists are well-trained regarding the appropriate use of psychotropic/psychiatric medications, but are one of the few doctorate-level clinicians who are not approved to prescribe medications relative to their work. HB 3355 would allow us to address this opportunity to provide rural Oregonians the full spectrum of mental healthcare when seeing a psychologist. HB 3355 would also mandate additional training for psychologists who wish to seek prescriptive authority. This is an appropriate and needed solution for rural communities of Oregon.

Oregon is very selective regarding licensure of clinical psychologists, and rightfully so. Strict standards are put in place for the best interest and protection of patients so that competent clinicians treat those in need. I currently attend an American Psychological Association accredited university, which means that my university has met the strictest standards for preparing to be a clinical psychologist. Additionally, this accreditation is specifically needed to pursue licensure as a psychologist in Oregon, and thus, would be a requirement for those who would seek prescribing authority under HB 3355. Prior to starting my program, I worked within corporate healthcare, including pharma and behavioral health, commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid health insurance for many years. Based on my knowledge and experience in these areas, it is apparent that programs to promote mental health and bring services to our rural communities are sorely needed. Therefore, I hope that you will support HB 3355 on April 5th.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Karin

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“In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity”

— [Albert Einstein](#)