

RE: HB 3355

Greetings:

I am a clinical psychologist and am writing to urge you to oppose HB 3355. I have been in independent practice for 30 years, and have practiced in a variety of outpatient and inpatient settings. I currently specialize in treating people with severe and chronic psychiatric conditions and providing mental health crisis assessments and intervention on general medical units at a regional medical center.

I am opposed to HB 3355 for the following reasons:

1. Only a limited number of psychologists support psychology prescription privileges (RxP). The supporters in Oregon probably claim strong support among psychologists for RxP, but it actually is highly controversial among psychologists. Many of us are concerned about the relatively low level of training required by HB 3355 and other RxP bills.
2. No professional organization, other than the American Psychological Association, supports RxP. The National Alliance on Mental Illness, NAMI, the leading national organization that advocates for people with mental illness, specifically opposes RxP. **ONLY THE OREGON PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION AND THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION SUPPORT HB 3355, WHILE 12 ORGANIZATIONS HAVE OFFICIALLY OPPOSED IT.** A list of those organizations is attached.
3. RxP advocates will try to convince you that RxP will improve access for Oregonians with mental illness, probably without any factual evidence to support their claims. In fact, a study published in 2016 in the Journal of Applied Biobehavioral Research, "What Oregon Psychologists Think and Know About Prescriptive Authority: Divided Views and Data-Driven Change," concluded that, even after a previous intense lobbying effort about an RxP bill in Oregon, most Oregon psychologists are not interested in undergoing RxP training. Also, NAMI concluded, "...there is no current evidence that expanding prescription privileges to psychologists will address (psychiatric workforce) shortages."

I understand that Oregon, like other states, is suffering from a psychiatric workforce shortage, but RxP is not the answer. Increasing funding for psychiatry training and improving coordination of care between mental health professionals and primary medical providers would be much more effective, and safer, ways to help Oregonians in need of improved mental health services.

Sincerely,

Richard Sethre, Psy.D.

Licensed Psychologist

HB 3355 PROPONENTS

Oregon Psychological Association

American Psychological Association

HB 3355 OPPONENTS

Oregon Medical Association

Oregon Psychiatric Association

Oregon Council of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

Oregon Family Support Network

YouthMove Oregon

The Society for a Science of Clinical Psychology

Psychologists Opposed to Prescription Privileges for Psychologists

American Medical Association

American Psychiatric Association

Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT)

International Society of Psychiatric –Mental Health Nurses

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)