



HEALTH LICENSING OFFICE

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TO: The Honorable Representative Jeff Barker, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Sylvie Donaldson, Director
Health Licensing Office
Public Health Division
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SUBJECT: House Bill 2633, Sex Offender Treatment

Chair Barker and members of the committee; I am Sylvie Donaldson, director of the Health Licensing Office.

While the Health Licensing Office is neutral on all bills, I am here to talk about the impact of House Bill 2633. This bill changes the statute that created a certification for sex offender treatment providers.

The existing statute is a title act – which means that anyone can do the work, but you need a license to call yourself a certified sex offender therapist. HB 2633 changes it to a practice act; you need a certification to do the work. It also adds a level of certification.

The existing statute defines ‘sex offender’ as someone who is ‘a person convicted or adjudicated of a sex crime, as defined in ORS 163A.005, or a sexual offense as provided in ORS 163.305 to 163.467, and mandated by a court, a releasing authority, including the Oregon Youth Authority, or the Oregon Health Authority to successfully complete a sex offender treatment program.’ HB 2633 broadens that definition to include someone who has been referred for treatment by DHS, a school board or who self-refers. The term ‘sex abuser’ allows the provider to treat more kinds of clients who need help.

HB 2633 requires a treatment provider to have an Oregon mental health professional license or equivalent license by Jan. 1, 2021. This requirement closes a loophole created

by 2007's HB 3233, which allowed for grandfathering of individuals who did not hold a mental health professional certification or license. Some of these individuals are still practicing, and questions about quality of care have been raised.

The bill's language is simple and straightforward, and it fits with how the Health Licensing Office operates.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify; I am available if there are any questions.