



Testimony in support of HB 2303 Amendment – QMHP/QMHA Registry

May 16, 2017

Dear Chair Monnes-Anderson and Members of Senate Health Care Committee,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP), I would like to express support for HB 2303 as amended, to establish a registry for Qualified Mental Health Professionals and Qualified Mental Health Associates under the title of behavioral health practitioners.

There are two separate initiatives underway to help resolve Behavioral Health system workforce issues:

- One is legislative through this bill to create a registry and AOCMHP is also working on a parallel certification process;
- The other is led by OHA, stemming from the Behavioral Health Collaborative's Recommendation 3: "A needs assessment of current workforce and a comprehensive plan that results in a well-trained behavioral health workforce, inclusive of certified, licensed and peer support specialists and community health workers throughout the state."

We support collaborating with key system partners on initiating the registry through HB 2303 and will work with OHA on a comprehensive behavioral health workforce plan.

Both of these are important first steps before we consider mandating QMHP licensure through legislation. I'm happy to talk more about the challenges of licensure for the behavioral health workforce if you have any questions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2303.

Sincerely,

Cherryl L. Ramirez

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Director, AOCMHP