
Ciara Sullivan, C.Ht,

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May 24th 2017

Senate Committee On Health Care

900 Court St, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson and members of the committee,

I am writing today in support of the amendment to HB 2303-A relating to the registration of “Alternative Behavioral Health Practitioners”, including but not limited to Hypnotherapists.

As a private practice Clinical Hypnotherapist, I see this amendment as an opportunity to strengthen the legitimacy of these highly valued areas of complementary care. I was touched by the compassion and respect shown by the committee, particularly Chair Monnes Anderson and Senator Steiner Hayward, in regard to those of us in the complementary care fields at the hearing on May 16th, 2017.

I admit that perhaps I have a somewhat unique view of this topic as compared to some of my fellow hypnotherapists, as I have only been in practice for a little over a year and have not endured the same alleged countless attacks on our profession that have been at the heart of much of their testimony.

However, having thoroughly read the amendment several times, as well as supporting legislation such as ORS 676.612 and ORS 670.280, I do not see any unreasonable or unfair requirements being suggested in this amendment. Rather, I see a very standard level of expectation of good faith and ethical practices, which I already currently uphold in my profession.

It is my opinion that much of the fear and conjecture on behalf of my fellow hypnotherapists, is relating to the unspecified nature of subsection 4 of the amendment. I feel that it could be beneficial to include some level of clarification of what those of us who would fall under the title of “alternative behavioral health practitioner” could reasonably expect in terms of the requirements which may be set regarding qualifications and ethical standards, or at least clarification on how much of a voice we will have in the creation of those requirements.

In watching the public hearing regarding this amendment from May, 16th 2017, I heard a wonderful degree of specification being discussed regarding some of the other groups set to be affected, such as the discussion surrounding the length of time between prior conviction versus prior sentence for peer support specialists. Once again I was impressed at the level of care and understanding being shown by the committee, that there appears to be a strong desire to minimize any potential negative impact and to be sure the amendment is as effective as possible toward its positive goals. I find it beyond reasonable to expect that the same level of care and understanding will be put into ensuring the qualifications and ethical standards set out for my profession are fair rather than excessive.

In summation, it is my belief that this amendment will ultimately be a wonderful step toward protecting and further legitimizing these fields of alternative and complementary care providers in the eyes of the public, and therefore I am happy to offer my support for this amendment.

Thank you so much for your time and this opportunity to share my testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ciara Sullivan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Ciara Sullivan, C.Ht