

May 29, 2017

To: Chair Senator Lori Monnes Anderson; Senator Elizabeth Steiner-Hayard;
Senator Jeff Kruse; Senator Lee Beyer; Senator Tim Knopp; Senator Ginny Burdick;
Senator Ginny Burdick

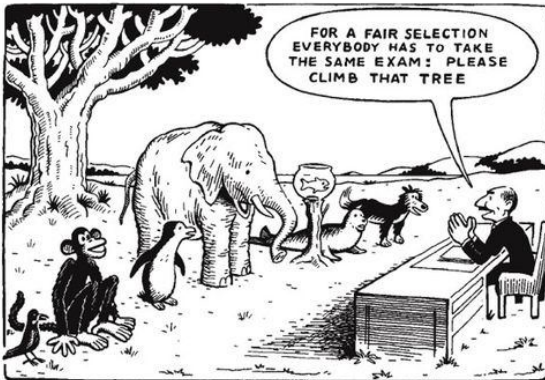
Re: Written testimony regarding HB2303-A3

Dear Senators:

In a spirit of peace, happiness, and prosperity we can all find a place in the world. Mine is as a Coach and Hypnotherapist. Good afternoon to the Chair and members of the committee. My name is Cat Wilson. I'm responding to the proposed Senate Amendment 3 by Senator Steiner-Hayward to HB 2303.

I am writing to oppose the amendment to the House Bill 2303 Amendment -3.

Life Coaches in Oregon strongly oppose Amendment 3, which would develop a series of regulations, fees and mandatory registration, and occupational regulations. I'm the owner of Apositiva Center and I'm a Trainer in Coaching, Hypnotherapy, and Communication skills training. I'm been working as a coach for over 20 years.



This approach to adding people who are not Psychologists or Medical personnel to the Health Care Bill is like tossing together many different kinds of animals. All the different Coaching modalities are not "alternative behavioral health practitioners" as discussed in the amendment, but rather are client-centered guides to assist clients by asking questions to discover their own better choices.

What is also strange is proposing to tell the others how to learn, what they will learn, and take measures to control professionals in the good works they do, when we have been answering this within our associations successfully for decades. We care for our clients and we approach our profession with integrity.

Hypnotherapists work in a client-centered way to help clients motivate themselves. Our training is long, intensive, and supervised for months. The local Oregon Hypnotherapy Association as well as the National Guild of Hypnotists holds high ethics, which we take pride in being a part. We do not choose to be Psychotherapists, Psychologists, or Mental Health Counselors as our work is different. We refer clients to others when it's beyond our field.

Coaches work in an approach that brings insight with questions. Our approach may be creative with art, words, or activities and is geared to be different than that of mental health practitioners. In the beginning as we create an alliance with a client, we explain the difference between therapy and coaching. Coaches and Hypnotherapists work, and clients access their services, under the First Amendment right to Freedom of Communication.

Amendment to HB2303 was hastily rushed into a bill without consulting so many people that are involved. Financial impact and much effort would be involved. Professional Coaches and Hypnotherapists would be impacted. The State of Oregon and its overburdened staff would be impacted. Obviously it would have fiscal and revenue impact as well as impact on your already busy legislature and administration demands.

I heard the explanations when I attended the Senate Committee Meeting on May 16th that this was about “public safety.” Yet this is also strange as we have not been a problem in the community; rather we have helped thousands to attain goals by using motivational approaches that are not met in the same way by mental health communities, because it is not what the others do in their work. We do, and our hearts are invested with our souls and our lives.

Please hear us in the focus of not mandating burdens on coaches, hypnotherapists, or discouraging creativity and innovation, which will encourage such individuals which would force such individuals to take their skills and revenues out of state. Please oppose Senate Amendment 3 to HB2303.

Sincerely,

Cat Wilson

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