

June 12, 2017

Oregon State Legislature
Joint Committee on Ways and Means SubCommittee on Education
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Re: *House Bill 3355A – Psychologist to Prescribe*

Co-Chair Senator Monroe, Co-Chair Representative Smith Warner and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means SubCommittee on Education:

The Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (Association) supports House Bill 3355A and supports the proposed -9 amendment adding nurse practitioners. OAHHS supports allowing a licensed psychologist in a clinical setting the ability to prescribe drugs that are for the treatment of mental disorders.

HB 3355A would expand access to care for mental health services overall and specifically aid in access to care for rural areas. HB 3355A would allow practitioners to practice to the fullest extent of their education. HB 3355A would improve access to mental health services through telemedicine and other innovations and ensure proper oversight of formulary development and training requirements.

HB 3355A -9 amendment would add prescribing nurse practitioner to the Committee on Prescribing Psychologists and allow the prescribing psychologist to consult with a prescribing nurse practitioner; thus allowing both the nurse practitioner and the prescribing psychologist to practice to the fullest extent of their education.

OAHHS encourages the committee to join them in supporting HB 3355A and the proposed -9 amendment.

Thank you,
Sean Kolmer
Senior Vice President of Policy & Strategy
Oregon Association of Hospital and Health Systems