



**Oregon
Family Support
Network**

Public Testimony on HB 3355

June 12, 2017

To:
Co-Chair Sen. Monroe
Co-Chair Rep. Smith Warner

Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

I writing to urge the committee to support several amendments concerning HB 3355A – making provision for Prescribing Psychologists.

While the Legislature looks to improve the quality of access to care for Oregonians experiencing serious mental and behavioral health conditions, I would like to address that we still have concerns about any unintended and potential harm that can come to children, youth and young adults in particular.

Many parents, like myself know how worrisome it can be to have a son or daughter on such powerful medications. When prescribed properly, they can make the biggest difference. However, mental and behavioral health conditions don't respond to psychotropic medications in the same manner that a headache responds to over the counter pain medication.

I know you are aware that the treatment of complex mental and behavioral health conditions requires so much more knowledge and understanding about the brain, the disease process, and the potential negative effects psychotropic medications can have. You have heard about some of these effects in all of the hearings and public testimony that has come before you over the past few months.

If you were the parent of a teen or young adult experiencing serious side effects from this medication, I believe you would want the same as I would. I would want total confidence that the individuals treating anyone in my family had the best knowledge, skill and expertise regarding the use of psychotropic medications– and that they had the best training possible.

Considering all of this, I agree with recommendations that have been made in the following amendments on HB3355A:

Amendment One: Patient Protections

1. Prescribing psychologists may prescribe only to clients between ages of 17 and 65; cannot prescribe to certain groups (pregnant women, intellectual disabilities, serious medical issues.)

2. Prescribing Psychologists may only prescribe the medications for the treatment of mental health disease or illness the collaborating physician generally provides to his or her patients in the normal course of his or her clinical practices. They may not prescribe Scheduled II-V controlled substances.

Amendment Two: Regulatory Oversight and Training

1. The Oregon Medical Board have oversight over the advisory committee comprised of 9 individuals: three licensed psychologists, one of whom is a member of the State Board of Psychologist Examiners and one of whom has completed the clinical residency program, one member of the public, The Oregon Medical Board shall appoint four prescribing physicians, at least two of whom are psychiatrists, and two primary care physicians. The State Board of Pharmacy shall appoint one licensed pharmacist with expertise in psychotropic medications. The advisory committee shall be staffed by a licensed physician.

2. All psychologists with prescriptive authority report to the Oregon Medical Board

3. All psychologists with prescriptive authority must have completed: Premedical Undergraduate Studies, Medical Basic Science education (Integrating Masters in Psychopharmacology training here) and Broad Clinical Experiences commensurate both in time and scope with Physician Assistant Training. Subsequent supervised clinical training in prescribing psychotropic medications in the primary care setting shall be competency based education and meet minimum standards related to time and experience.

4. The Oregon Medical Board shall report to the Oregon Legislature every biennium on the status of the program, including number of psychologist prescribers in both urban and rural areas.

It is my hope that our passion to help relieve the access issues that are so concerning does not take precedence over using the best strategies, and providing the necessary safeguards we need to make this legislation something more than we thought it could be.

Sincerely,



Sandy Bumpus, Executive Director