

HB 2304 A -A6 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Cherie Stone, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 7/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds Certified Advocates and Peer Support Specialists, which includes Family Support and Youth Support Specialists, to the definition of Peer Wellness Specialists. Defines Family Support and Youth Support Specialists. Directs Oregon Health Authority to adopt qualification criteria.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A6 Removes Certified Advocates from definition of traditional health worker. Directs Attorney General and Oregon Health Authority to develop and implement plan incorporating advocates for domestic and sexual violence survivors into traditional healthcare workers workforce in increase access to advocate services.

BACKGROUND:

The Traditional Health Workers Commission is overseen by the Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) Office of Equity and Inclusion. The Commission promotes the role, engagement and utilization of the traditional health workforce, which includes Community Health Workers, Peer Wellness Specialists, Personal Health Navigators, Peer Support Specialists and Doulas. The 19-member Commission advises and makes recommendations to OHA on the development, implementation and sustainability of the program.

House Bill 2304-A expands Oregon's traditional health workforce by recognizing peer, family and youth support specialists and certified advocates.