

February 20, 2017

Chair Greenlick and Vice-Chairs Hayden and Nosse,

My name is Christopher Hamilton, PhD and I am Reliant Behavioral Health's (RBH) Monitoring Programs Director. Since July 2010, RBH has continuously operated Oregon's Health Professionals' Services Program (HPSP). I am here to speak in support of House Bill 2394.

HPSP is currently available to licensees of participating health professional boards with eligible behavioral health diagnoses (substance use disorder, mental health, or both). HB 2394 outlines two important statutory changes to HPSP that will allow for the inclusion of licensees with:

- 1) Impairing medical conditions that require monitoring for safe practice
- 2) Criminal histories involving a substance but without an eligible behavioral health diagnosis

These concepts were discussed by the HPSP Advisory Committee comprised of staff representatives from the Oregon Medical Board, Oregon Board of Nursing, Board of Pharmacy, Board of Dentistry, and the Oregon Health Authority and presented to Chair Greenlick by the Oregon Board of Nursing Executive Director and myself.

From time to time, health professional boards have licensees with medical conditions that require workplace monitoring and structure in promotion of the licensee's safe practice. The current HPSP structure, including agreement monitors who are licensed counselors and social workers, are appropriate to serve this population with the statutory authority provided in this bill. Monitoring for licensees with medical conditions will include licensee adherence to their medical treatment plan and workplace monitoring. These licensees would not participate in the HPSP toxicology program unless required for valid prescription detection of therapeutic medication levels. Currently for some health professions, the only monitoring option for licensees with medical conditions is probation, with a public record, by the licensing board.

Under the current DSM-V it is possible for an individual to have one or more driving under the influence of intoxicants episodes and not have a substance use disorder diagnosis. Previously under the DSM-IV, criminal justice involvement was a diagnostic criterion used in assessing a substance use disorder diagnosis. With this bill, health professional boards participating in HPSP will have the discretion to place a licensee in a one year diagnostic monitoring program when a licensee has substance related criminal activity. Diagnostic monitoring will provide a tool for health licensing boards providing substance use detection and help rule out a substance

use disorders through toxicology testing. Additionally, this will offer licensees a structure to demonstrate abstinence from substance use.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on HB 2394. I am available to answer any of the Committee's questions by phone (503) 802-9813 or email [chamilton@reliantbh.com](mailto:chamilton@reliantbh.com).

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'C' followed by a vertical bar and a horizontal line, with the initials 'PWH' written to the right.

Christopher J. Hamilton, PhD, MPA

Monitoring Programs Director