

Support Increasing Access to Mental Health Prescribers

Vote Yes on House Bill 3355

House Bill 3355 is a critical step toward a more comprehensive model of care that supports integration of behavioral health services and helps get Oregonians the care they need, especially in rural communities.

Oregonians face significant barriers to care

48 percent of Oregonians do not have access to a psychiatric prescriber and the need is increasing in all of our communities.

Allowing specially trained psychologists, already serving these patients with non-pharmacological therapeutic interventions, adds more capacity and increases access to address Oregon's mental health needs.

House Bill 3355 will improve patient outcomes

HB 3355 requires significantly more formal education, in addition to that already required of psychologists by law, including: an additional post-doctoral master's degree in Clinical Psychopharmacology (2-years), a board approved residency (2-years) and formal certification by multi-disciplinary board.

Prescribing authority for specially trained psychologists will be limited to a mental health drug formulary that excludes opiates. These evidence-based standards have proven to be both safe and effective in states that have already extended prescribing to psychologists.

Behavioral health integration is critical to addressing need

Primary care providers and emergency departments are experiencing significant obstacles in providing adequate support for patients with chronic mental health conditions.

HB 3355 requires prescribing psychologists practice in a **medical setting with other providers** - like a patient centered primary care home or hospital – a best-practice for cross-discipline collaboration.

House Bill 3355 passed out of full Ways and Means with strong bipartisan and bicameral support!

We urge a YES vote on House Bill 3355!



Bill Kenemer



