

# 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!**



*Leurie M Anderson*