

**HB 2304 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Keny-Guyer

**House Committee On Health Care**

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**Action Date:** 03/08/17

**Action:** Do Pass.

**Vote:** 9-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Alonso Leon, Buehler, Greenlick, Hack, Hayden, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Malstrom, Nosse

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Adds 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:**

- Various types of peer support
- Various types of healthcare settings where support specialists are utilized
- Growth of the profession
- Different types of peer support
- Proposed amendments
- Updates the definition to reflect best practice and registry requirements

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Traditional Health Workers Commission is housed in 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, in the integrated and coordinated healthcare delivery system. The 19-member Commission advises and makes recommendations to OHA on the development, implementation and sustainability of the program.

House Bill 2034 updates the definition of Peer Support Specialist and Youth Support Specialist and adds these positions to the list of Traditional Health Workers that specialize in both Peer and Youth Support Services.