

April 1, 2019

Chair Salinas and Members of the Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to show our support for HB 3231. I support all efforts to improve access to health care services, especially genetic counseling services in Oregon. Genetic counselors are especially deserving of our support and any steps we can take to secure licensure for genetic counseling will only improve the lives of Oregonians.

Our work with a genetic counselor did so much for my family. It answered so many questions and opened so many doors. Knowing that so many of my family is living with chromosome disorders has helped me to be more understanding and enabled me to start reaching out to get the tools to improve their lives. Five members of my family have already tested positive for a chromosome disorder and there are still many members left to test. I look forward to their results and the improvements it will bring to their lives.

It is in the interest of patients of the state to secure licensing and qualifications for genetic counselors. Doing so will provide so many opportunities and, I believe, ultimately lead to a healthier, happier Oregon.

Thanks you again for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Veronica Smith

Molalla, OR