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Testimony of Christian Wolff On Behalf of the Healthcare Alliance for Regulatory Board Reform

In Favor of SB 1506

Chair, Senator Chuck Riley, and the Honorable members of the Senate Committee On General Government and Emergency Preparedness:

The hour has become late. Our testimony will be brief and simple. We have read the prepared testimony of Former Oregon Public Records Advocate Ginger McCall and support her position completely and without reservation.

As opportunity allows we will be more explicit.

Who we are: The Healthcare Alliance for Regulatory Board Reform (HARBR), was founded in November of 2016 with its cornerstone in Oregon. Our mission is to assure due process of law to licensed healthcare professionals when their licenses are in jeopardy due to complaints issued against them.

Who I am: My name is Christian Wolff. I am an Oregon [Licensed Independent] Psychologist Associate licensed by the Oregon Board of Psychology (OBOP). I have voluntarily placed my license on Inactive Status. I am also Executive Co-Director & Co-Founder of HARBR. I have been an active participant in Oregon government as an OBOP watchdog for more than 20 years. My personal experiences are not much different from Oregon HARBR members nor from the experiences of HARBR members from other states in the nation.

I have been thwarted in my attempt to access records by being quoted exorbitant fees for records access. \$6750 for something reasonably valued at \$100. I have experienced career damaging defamation by OBOP due to their multi-year refusal to post official

records favoring me next to those reflecting poorly on me. I am presently waiting for *true* records which would allow me to communicate with other licensees. HARBR paid for the records, and the deliveries were delayed. When the records were delivered, they were *false* records. I assert they are false because, after close examination, they have every appearance of being false, and the Oregon Board of Psychology has not commented on my assertions, nor have they delivered the true copies we have repeatedly implored them to deliver them to us. It is now going on 6 months.

We have begged for intervention.

On numerous matters we have asked for assistance from the Attorney General, the Governor, and other elected state officials. Never have they been helpful and more often than not, they do not respond at all.

Knowledge is power. A public without knowledge is disempowered and cannot participate meaningfully in the government which operates, nominally, by their consent.

Public records do not belong to power abusers exploiting their time in office for their own benefit. Public records belong to the public. This much we already know and believe.

Enforcement of the public's right to *real* access to records can only be expected if the enforcer is independent. The Public Records Advocate must have fierce power.

Without such, freedom is a farce, and Oregon governs by the well known tools of tyranny.

HARBR stands in favor of SB 1506.

We implore you to pass it into law.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Christian Wolff, MA

on behalf of the Healthcare Alliance for Regulatory Board Reform