

I support bill HB 2619 which will require genetic counselors to be licensed in the state of Oregon.

I have been a practicing genetic counselor for over five years. In that short period of time I have encountered numerous patients who have had the incorrect test ordered by a healthcare provider not trained in genetics. Genetic testing can be very expensive, therefore it is imperative the most appropriate test is ordered to avoid unnecessary healthcare spending. Allowing genetic counselors to be licensed in the state of OR will lead to saving healthcare dollars through better informed testing for patients. Licensure for genetic counselors will also improve the patient access through giving genetic counselors the ability to work directly with a patient's primary provider no matter where they are located; this will allow more Oregonians to maintain a relationship with their community provider as they receive genetic counseling services.

Genetic counselors increase the quality of genetics services while reducing costs. This is why I support bill HB 2619.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed bill that will increase access and ensure quality genetic counseling is provided by licensed certified genetic counselors.

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