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SPECIAL TESTIMONY OPPOSING BOTH HBS 2114 & 2117

EGREGIOUSLY UNETHICAL LEGISLATIVE PROCESSING ON THE PART OF THE MENTAL HEALTH REGULATORY AGENCY (MHRA) & THE OREGON BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

Part II: Narrative on OBOP's Covert Processing of HBs 2114 & 2117

To: The Honorable Senator Sara Gelser, Chair of the Oregon Senate Committee On Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery;

Date: May 3, 2021

From: Christian Wolff, MA, Oregon Licensed Psychologist Associate (Inactive)/ Executive Co-Director of Healthcare Alliance for Regulatory Board Reform

Position on HB 2017: Against

Position on HB 2117: Against

Request & Recommendation: In the least, the two bills should be tabled until such time as the public, licensees, Psychologist Associates, and all other OBOP "interested parties" have been made fairly aware that these bills have been submitted *as bills* to the Oregon Legislature's 2021 Session.

Both HB 2114 and HB 2117 are both VERY complex and VERY opposed. It would not appear this way though by viewing the OLIS record of the 2/2/2021 Public Hearing on the bill. OLIS shows that LaRee Felton (staff for the overlapped bodies "Oregon Board of Psychology" and "Mental Health Regulatory Agency" [MHRA]) was the ONLY one to provide testimony in ANY form.

As the Executive Co-Director of the Healthcare Alliance for Regulatory Board Reform (HARBR-USA), I can guarantee that there is MUCH opposition to HBs 2114 & 2117.

We were simply never made aware that these bills had been submitted to the legislature. The fact of their submissions to the legislature as BILLS was deliberately hidden from ALL interested parties.

OBOP/MHRA (both headed by Charles Hill) sent:

- 1) No public notices via [OBOPeNews], their usual method of disseminated notices via email.
- 2) They delayed (in the extreme) the publication of many sets of Regular Public meetings minutes which we would have hoped would declare their intentions to submit the bills.
- 3) In deviation to protocol, OBOP/MHRA completely skipped their Winter Newsletter (which would usually be published and actively disseminated about January 1.
- 4) In "forcing the hand" of OBOP/MHRA to publish their delinquent meeting minutes for the Regular Public meeting held 1/8/21, the resultant set of minutes made NO mention of the HBs 2114 nor 2117. Given that EACH of these bills would have their 1st Readings on 1/11/21 (the Monday following the Friday Regular Public OBOP meeting), it seems exceptionally odd that their minutes would show NO record of these bills having been discussed.
- 5) OBOP/MHRA published and disseminated their 2021 SPRING Newsletter on 3/31/21. This was AFTER:
 - a) 1/11/21 First Readings of HBs 2114 & 2117
 - b) 1/19/21 Referrals to House Committee on Health Care
 - c) 1/28/21 Work Sessions
 - d) 1/29/21 Referral to House Committee on Behavioral Health by Speaker of the House
 - e) 2/3/21 Public Hearings
 - f) 3/24/21 Work Sessions were held & Preliminary Staff Measure Summaries (SMS) were written up by the House Committee on Behavioral Health
 - g) 3/26/21 Recommendations for "Do Pass" in a unanimous vote of the 9 member House Committee on Behavioral Health on both HBs 2114 & 2117
 - h) 3/30/21 Second Readings of HBs 2114 & 2117

Even the SPRING OBOP/MHRA Newsletter published 3/31/21 after all this activity on these bills, mentioned NOTHING of them. As of 3/31/21, the fate of this bill was still undetermined, and there was STILL TIME for any interested parties to OPPOSE HBs 2114 & 2117. Yet, OBOP/MHRA chose STILL to inform NO interested parties and certainly no one who might OPPOSE these bills.

6) Nor after my letter to OBOP on 3/19/21, did OBOP/MHRA send me any direct correspondence informing me that HBs 2114 & HB 2117 had so much as been pre-session filed.

I am attaching the letter I sent to OBOP on 3/19/21 because it supports that which I have just described. It also serves as testament to the fact that they are now aware of their set of "errors."

My request:

It is important to me that HBs 2114 & 2117 DO NOT PASS INTO LAW. It is my position that OBOP/MHRA (under the guise of a "governor's request on behalf of MHRA") has

been carried covertly through the legislative process this far, *under the radar* of the public, licensees, and most all other interested parties. I would like an opportunity to testify AGAINST both bills as would, I know, MANY, MANY other interested parties who are not even aware that these bills were submitted this session. Records will show that BOTH of these bills have been successfully defeated in the past and there is, therefore, reason to believe they would be defeated again were opposing parties given any notice. Records will show that these matters have received testimony by MANY in the past and that never has there been the case such that only ONE witness showed up (LaReé Felton) to testify on the important matters proposed in HBs 2114 & 2117.

I think the covert nature of OBOP/MHRA's bill-passing-strategy is underhanded and contrary to the basic tenets of fairness which should surround legislative process by standard. I would like to have OBOP/MHRA's behavior investigated and would appreciate a referral to the proper body for the investigation.

Respectfully,

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