

Dear Representative Salinas,

As a native Oregonian and Certified Hypnotherapist, I help a lot of Oregonians with behavior modification. Helping people quit smoking, lose weight, and feel good about themselves is important for people and good for the economy. This is my livelihood. With jobs so scarce, I can't afford to lose the income that HB2493 threatens.

I have seen no proof that hypnotherapists need to be regulated, and no proof that hypnotherapists cause any harm or present any risk to anyone. I have, however, seen many folks benefit from receiving hypnotherapy.

Here are some important factors to consider:

- 48 of the 50 states see no reason to make hypnotherapists register with the state
- The state of Indiana had a registration system for hypnotists for a number of years but abolished it after studying and deciding it served no public purpose and was a waste of taxpayer money
- The First Amendment may make a registration scheme unconstitutional because you cannot restrict who people can talk to about their problems
- Hypnotherapists are already bound by the same regulations and HIPAA laws as psychotherapists, but with many more restrictions on their services. They do not need to be regulated any further
- Most of us are already regulated by our unions, and have to pay dues, and comply with their rules
- Private practice insurance companies further ensure our compliance with existing laws

Additionally, I find it very concerning that this bill - or similar iterations of it - keep making their way to the House floor when there seems to be no valid justification for unnecessary and possibly costly oversight on alternative practitioners. Furthermore, I find it worrisome that we may be expected to "voluntarily" register with an agency that a) does not understand our industry, and b) pushes us to become subject to additional requirements, regulations, and fees.

Representatives, there are so many genuine problems that Oregon faces, I urge you to focus your attention on more deserving topics and vote "No" on HB2493.

Thank you kindly for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Britt Sheflin-Greager