

To: Representative Tawna Sanchez, Chair-House Committee on Behavioral Health and members of the committee

From: Charles Hill, Executive Director, Oregon Mental Health Regulatory Board

Date: May 9, 2021

I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Mental Health Regulatory Agency (MHRA) which is the administrative arm that oversees the Oregon Board of Psychologists and the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists. The mission of the BOP and the BLPCT focuses on consumer protection and public safety through the licensure and regulation of Psychologists, Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC's) and Family and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT's). **MHRA supports HB2943 and the creation of a registry** for therapists of alternative modalities. This registry will give consumers an option when in need of a therapist and will serve to protect the public.

I worked with Representative Salinas early on in the development and concept of HB2493 and served on her workgroup through multiple meetings and can attest that most "alternative providers" in the state are in favor of creating this registry.

However, HB2493 is incomplete as written and needs to include an **amendment** that eliminates the unlicensed practice of counseling and therapy in Oregon. As the Executive Director of the MHRA I have seen numerous complaints over the years from consumers who have been harmed by unlicensed practitioners. The BLPCT lacks the statutory authority to enforce unlicensed practice and this is a dis-service to the consuming public. The fix is simple. **HB2943 should be amended to strike ORS 675.825(4)**, and I encourage that the Behavioral Health Committee do this during the work session(s) to follow.

On behalf of the consuming public and MHRA, thank you for considering request.

Respectfully,

Charles Hill

Executive Director

Oregon Mental Health Regulatory Board

Charles.j.hill@oregon.gov