

Please help to keep alternative therapies available at a fair and reasonable cost for those who appreciate and need the services. Many people have benefited from reiki, hypnosis and life coaching services. Any form of official regulation will cost the practitioners more money for licensing and insurance which will have to be passed on to clients. Alternative practitioners are not eligible to be reimbursed through most mainstream health insurances, so clients pay out of pocket. Only the wealthy clients would be able to afford services.

As for regulating spiritual counselors, it clearly violates the separation of state and religion. Clergy have always been able to provide counseling to people in times of need.

It goes without saying that we are in dire times, when people are on waiting lists for mental health practitioners and are in desperate need of assistance and there is no one to see them. Often they do not receive a call back to their inquiry for help. Alternative practitioners help to fill the gaps. Alternative practitioners are educated and certified in their fields.

It is unconscionable to limit people from obtaining the very services they need to help them feel better emotionally and mentally.

This is solely about the state regulating alternative practitioners in order to bring in more revenue. Not good. This is not the time to take this type of action. This is not the time to put greed before the best interest of your constituents. This is not the time to overload Oregon's mental health system which is already overwhelmed and providers are overburdened.

Please consider the potential damage the passage of this bill could do at this unique time in the history of our state.

Respectfully,
Lisa M Giles