

I am emailing in support HB 2493 which is being considered by the House Behavioral Health Committee.

For the past 21 years I have been a successful alternative counselor with a master's degree in counseling. Although I choose not to follow the licensure route I have been dedicated to my work and on-going pursuit of training and education. It has been legal in Oregon to practice in this way this entire time. I am very much in support HB 2493.

HB 2493 acknowledges the wide range of services clients access in our state and was carefully created by a work group that represented the many stakeholders. Because the quality and duration of the alternative trainings vary widely, as well as a given practitioners experience, HB 2493 helps inform the public more fully. It also provides an official place for a client who wants to register a complaint to go, thus providing another level of consumer protection.

I believe It has been my understanding that most alternate counselors fully support us finally having a more specific umbrella under which to work. However, I also understand there have been some objections from a number of alternative counselors/coaches who have concerns and perhaps some misunderstanding of what the bill actually says. We continue to work to find a way to address everyone's concerns.

I have written letters of support for this bill to the different representatives but I wanted to go on this public record in support of HB2493.

Thank you for your time.

Trinity Harris Carosio