

As a Licensed Professional Counselor and Approved Supervisor in Oregon, I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for HB 2949 that would require our mental health regulatory agencies to improve the accessibility of the mental health workforce to Black, indigenous and people of color in Oregon. The items in this bill are a comprehensive set of solutions to mitigate the inequities that exist for providers in the mental health systems in Oregon. I have been a counselor in Oregon for 19 years, have been providing clinical supervision for 10 years, and have been an educator at the Master's level. In these roles, I've witnessed first hand the barriers to diversifying our field. As a provider of the 30-hour Clinical Supervision training for Oregon, I've witnessed the benefits of equity based pricing to increase the accessibility of training for BIPOC clinicians so they can become supervisors. Finally, I wholeheartedly support reducing the number of direct practice hours to 1600 for BIPOC clinicians to obtain licensure. This is a policy that leads with equity rather than a "one size fits all" approach. This legislative package is comprehensive. If we are truly committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice for clients and providers of mental healthcare in Oregon, this bill is an absolute step forward.

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