



Chair Dembrow
Vice-Chair Weber
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

Feb 6, 2024

Testimony in Support of SB 1592– Support for Behavioral Health Workforce

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

GOBHI (Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc) supports SB 1592.

GOBHI is a behavioral health and social services network serving 12 rural/frontier counties with the goal of empowering individuals and communities to achieve better health. GOBHI was established in 1994 and is a non-profit organization.

GOBHI knows firsthand the difficulty of attracting workers into our behavioral health system. On May 15, 2023, GOBHI launched a workforce campaign called, Come Care with Us, aimed at recruiting behavioral health providers to work within the GOBHI network in Eastern Oregon. We currently partner with Eastern Oregon University to support people who are in the behavioral health workforce pathway. We are at crisis level staffing and need all the help we can get. SB 1592 will help attract workers into our behavioral health system and we fully support it.

Please support **SB 1592**.

Thank you.

Submitted by: Anna Braun with Braun Law LLC representing GOBHI (Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc).