



Chair Nosse  
Vice-Chair Goodwin  
Vice-Chair Nelson  
Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

**Feb 13, 2024**

**Testimony in Support of HB 4071 with the -1, -2 and -3 amendments**

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Goodwin, Vice-Chair Nelson and members of the committee:

**GOBHI (Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc) supports HB 4071 with the -1, -2 and 3 amendments.**

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 supports the task force created with the -1 amendment to HB 4071 to find a way to quickly license new and out of state health professionals. GOBHI is acutely aware of staffing shortages in our behavioral health workforce. HB 4071 with the -1 amendment will help ease the worker shortage.

GOBHI also supports the -2 (Social Work Licensure Compact) and -3 (Counseling Compact) amendments that allow licensing reciprocity with other states. Reciprocity will help ease our behavioral health worker shortage.

We are at crisis level staffing for our behavioral health workers and, especially in rural and frontier Oregon, we need all the help we can get.

**Please support HB 4071 with the -1, -2 and -3 amendments.**

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