

February 18, 2025

The Honorable Rob Nosse, Chair
House Committee on Behavioral Health & Health Care

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Chair Nosse, Members of the Committee:

Oregon has a higher incidence of mental health needs than almost every other state in the union.¹ Yet, a 2023 report issued by the Oregon Health Authority estimated that only 1,928 psychologists were practicing in the State of Oregon. That same report showed that, in 2022, there was one psychologist practicing in Marion County for every 4,792 residents. Six Oregon counties had *no* practicing psychologists.²

HB 3339 would bring Oregon into PSYPACT, a compact administered by the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact Commission. Under the Compact, psychologists can apply for licensure to provide either face-to-face or telepsychology services in member states.

Though PSYPACT only became effective in 2020, there are 42 member states and territories. Oregon is among the very small minority of states that haven't adopted enabling legislation.

Joining PSYPACT will not resolve the shortage of psychologists to serve Oregonians. However, it will provide additional flexibilities around the practice of telepsychology and temporary in-person practice.

I urge your support of HB 3339.

Sincerely,



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Inpatient Psychology Medical Director
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¹ Reinert, M, Fritze, D & Nguyen, T (July 2024). "The State of Mental Health in America 2024." Mental Health America, Alexandria VA.

² Oregon Health Authority. (2023, April). *What's the Health Care Workforce Supply in Oregon?* Dhsoha.state.or.us; Oregon Health Authority. https://visual-data.dhsoha.state.or.us/t/OHA/views/Oregonlicensedhealthcareworkforce/Supplybyoccupation?%3Aorigin=card_share_link&%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y