

Submitter: Andrew Hibbard  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3045

I am submitting this testimony to strongly oppose HB 3045, which grants excessive disciplinary authority to the Oregon Board of Pharmacy (OBOP) without proper safeguards.

HB 3045 would allow OBOP to require pharmacists to undergo mental, physical, chemical dependency, or competency evaluations at their own expense without clear due process protections. This is a significant overreach and raises serious privacy and patient protection concerns, particularly when it comes to substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and recovery programs.

If passed, HB 3045 could discourage healthcare professionals from seeking necessary treatment due to fear of professional repercussions, directly contradicting national efforts to reduce stigma and improve treatment access. Oregon is already facing a pharmacy workforce crisis, with over 60 pharmacies closing in the past two years due to burdensome regulations, financial struggles, and excessive administrative oversight. This bill further discourages professionals from staying in Oregon, exacerbating an already dire situation.

Beyond workforce concerns, the bill lacks clear due process protections. There are no objective criteria for determining when an evaluation should be required, leaving too much room for arbitrary or punitive enforcement rather than a focus on public safety. At a time when many states are shifting away from punitive health professional services programs that limit healthcare professionals' ability to seek treatment, stay employed, and maintain licensure in good standing, HB 3045 takes Oregon in the wrong direction.

The Oregon Medical Board (OMB) acknowledges substance use disorder (SUD) as a chronic medical condition and actively encourages its licensees to seek appropriate treatment while maintaining their professional standing. The OMB's Confidential Program for Substance Abuse allows licensees to self-refer to the Health Professionals' Services Program (HPSP) without mandatory reporting to the Board, provided there has been no impact on patient care or professional performance. This approach emphasizes rehabilitation over punitive measures, aiming to support healthcare professionals in their recovery and return to safe practice. The focus should be on supporting healthcare professionals through appropriate and non-punitive means, not creating unnecessary barriers that push more pharmacists out of the workforce.

I urge the committee to oppose HB 3045 in its current condition, as it undermines privacy protections, workforce retention, and fair due process. Oregon should be encouraging treatment access and aligning with federal protections that reduce stigma and ensure public safety, not implementing punitive policies that harm those in need.

I encourage my fellow pharmacy professionals and healthcare providers to share their own experiences on how HB 3045 could negatively impact their practice and their patients. Your voice is crucial in stopping unnecessary regulatory overreach and preserving access to pharmacy services in Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote no on HB 3045 to protect pharmacy professionals and patient care in our state.