

Date: 3-17-2025

From: Carlos Obed Texidor Maldonado, PhD

Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs Fragala and Harbick, and members of the Committee

Thank you, Chair Hudson and House committee members. My name is Dr. Carlos Obed Texidor Maldonado. I am from Salem. I am the CEO of Bridgeway Community Health and an Assistant Professor in the Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling program at Western Oregon University. I am here today to support HB 3129.

Oregon is experiencing a behavioral health crisis, with individuals and families unable to obtain the necessary care. Our universities, particularly regional universities, are essential in educating the forthcoming generation of mental health practitioners. Financial constraints have restricted their capacity to develop programs and satisfy the increasing demand for more providers to work in the behavioral health field.

HB 3129 will equip these universities with the resources to enhance faculty investment, expand student enrollment, and ultimately increase the number of professionals prepared to serve our communities. Enhancing our behavioral health workforce aids individuals in crises and fortifies resilience throughout our economy and communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



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