



OREGON
INDEPENDENT MENTAL
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

March 20, 2025

Re: Support for House Bill 3234

Dear Chair Sosa, Vice-Chairs Chaichi and Osborne, and Members of the House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection,

My name is Melissa Todd and I am an independently practicing psychologist in Eugene. I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Independent Mental Health Professionals (OIMHP), a legislative advocacy committee dedicated to strengthening mental health parity and increasing access to mental health care in Oregon. We are supported by the Western Oregon Mental Health Alliance (WOMHA), a nonprofit association of multidisciplinary behavioral health professionals who provide care to patients throughout Oregon.

OIMHP supports HB 3234 because health insurance conglomerates and corporate entities are creating anticompetitive monopolies in Oregon with impunity. In the last several years, behavioral health has become big business and both patients and providers have suffered as a result. In Eugene, three of the four large group practices formerly owned by behavioral health professionals have been purchased by corporate entities including Optum, a subsidiary of the UnitedHealth Group. Optum has been quietly acquiring medical and behavioral health clinics throughout Oregon, expanding their control of our health care systems to the providers themselves. **Health care should be patient-centered instead of profit-driven, and health care decisions should be made by health care providers instead of corporations.**

We respectfully ask for your support of HB 3234 to authorize the Attorney General to enforce antitrust laws in health care and thank you for considering our perspective on this important legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Todd, Ph.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melissa Todd, Ph.D.
Licensed Psychologist