



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Mental Health Regulatory Agency

Board of Psychology

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Testimony on Senate Bill 1547

February 2, 2026

Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

The Mental Health Regulatory Agency (MHRA) provides administrative oversight to the Board of Psychology, which will be responsible for licensing and regulating licensed behavioral health and wellness practitioners as established under Senate Bill 1547.

In my role as Policy Advisor to MHRA, I served as a member of the [House Bill 4151](#) Subcommittee on the Youth Behavioral Health Workforce. The Subcommittee met approximately 12 times beginning in October 2024 to identify professional authorization options for existing and emerging behavioral health professions and to provide recommendations on establishing new state-issued authorizations with a focus on equity and diversity. The Subcommittee identified a gap in Oregon's system for prevention and intervention services which may be filled by adding an applied bachelor's trained practitioner license type. The measure language is clear that these individuals provide specific supervised behavioral health promotion, prevention, and brief intervention services and do not diagnose or independently treat any physical, behavioral, emotion, or mental disorders.

The Subcommittee's final December 2025 report recommended that MHRA create a new behavioral health provider credential as described above. Subsequently, we worked with the University of Oregon's Ballmer Institute for Children's Behavioral Health and the Oregon Psychological Association on the drafting of Senate Bill 1547. On passage, we are prepared to implement Senate Bill 1547 through rulemaking, internal training, and systems integration in collaboration with our partners and with minimal fiscal impact to the Board of Psychology.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information. I am available to answer any questions.

Respectfully,

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