

Submitter: Maria Smithson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4115

Dear Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 4115. Oregon continues to face a significant behavioral health workforce shortage, leaving many residents with prolonged wait times for care and limited access to timely support. This strain on our system has real consequences for individuals, families, and communities who depend on responsive and effective behavioral health services.

At the same time, there are qualified professionals who are ready and willing to serve in Oregon but are delayed or discouraged by an overly burdensome and inefficient licensure process. When administrative barriers prevent capable providers from entering the workforce, the entire behavioral health system — and the people it serves — suffer unnecessarily.

HB 4115 offers a practical and responsible approach by streamlining licensure while maintaining appropriate professional standards. This will help ensure that qualified providers can begin serving Oregonians more quickly, strengthening our behavioral health network at a time when it is urgently needed.

For these reasons, I encourage your support of HB 4115 and its efforts to improve access to care and expand Oregon's behavioral health workforce. Thank you for your consideration of my comments, and your continued service to our state.

Sincerely,
Maria Smithson