

Submitter: Jessica Macklin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4070

Hello.

NW Treatment, Jessica Macklin, Program Director. I am writing today in support of House Bill 4070 and the -A1 amendments that clarify and modernize Oregon's behavioral health statutes. Increasing efficiency and removing unnecessary administrative burden is long overdue and essential to supporting the behavioral health workforce, reducing system waste, and improving access to timely, equitable care.

Oregon-based behavioral health providers and individuals licensed in Oregon can (and do!) deliver telehealth services. These providers offer a wide range of flexible care delivery models, including telehealth, outreach, and in-office services. This mix ensures providers can meet the individual needs of those they serve. This amendment would not jeopardize the delivery of telehealth services. The real barriers to telehealth access are funding and access to technology or adequate cell service.

The -A1 amendment supports OHA in clarifying Oregon's current meaningful quality and consumer safety informed standards for mental health and substance use disorder services delivery. This ensures Oregonians utilizing the Oregon Health Plan receive services that adhere to Oregon's expectations for quality and safety.

The -A1 Amendment not only ensures clarity, safety, and quality for consumers, it also supports Oregon's behavioral health workforce. OCBH supports efforts that ensure services are delivered by practitioners who are licensed or based in Oregon to ensure Oregonians are hired for these necessary jobs. The -A1 supports expanding an Oregon-based workforce.