

## **Support HB 4070 -A 10 Amendments Safeguard Behavioral Health Virtual Care**

### **The Problem:**

Current Oregon statutes lack clarity on the qualifications required to provide behavioral health telehealth services to Oregon residents. While physical health statutes explicitly mandate that providers must be licensed in Oregon, behavioral health statutes remain ambiguous, potentially compromising the quality and oversight of care delivered to Oregon consumers.

### **What the Amendment Does:**

The amendment resolves this ambiguity by clearly stating that in order to provide behavioral health treatment to an Oregon resident via telehealth, the provider must be licensed in the state of Oregon. Alternatively, if a provider is unlicensed in Oregon, they must be employed by and practice within an Oregon facility within an agency that holds a Certificate of Approval, a Community Mental Health Clinic, an FQHC, or a community hospital.

This amendment:

- Ensures providers are accountable to Oregon's licensing boards.
- Confirms providers meet Oregon's high standards of care.
- Guarantees familiarity with and adherence to Oregon's laws, rules, values, and Medicaid program goals.

Licensure boards in Oregon play a critical role by:

- Conducting background checks.
- Overseeing licensees and trainees.
- Investigating complaints.
- Enforcing disciplinary actions when ethical standards are breached.

### **What the Amendment Does Not Do:**

- **It does not** prohibit out-of-state companies from offering telehealth services to Oregon residents. Providers affiliated with such companies simply need to hold an Oregon license.
- **It does not** restrict access to behavioral health services via telehealth. Oregon continues to have a robust network of licensed, qualified providers offering behavioral health telehealth care.

### **Conclusion:**

The amendment strengthens consumer protections without limiting access to care. It aligns behavioral health telehealth regulations with those governing physical health, ensuring consistent, high-quality care for all Oregonians.



