

HB 4070 and the A10 amendment

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

My name is Beth Herrera, and I serve as President of COPACT, the Coalition of Oregon Professional Associations for Counseling and Therapy. COPACT represents mental health professionals across Oregon who are committed to providing safe, ethical, and high-quality behavioral health care.

We strongly support HB 4070 and the A10 amendment.

The A10 amendment provides important clarity in Oregon law: when behavioral health services are delivered via telehealth to an Oregon resident, the provider must be licensed in Oregon, or practicing within an Oregon-based facility that holds proper approval and oversight.

This aligns behavioral health with the same expectations already in place for physical health care. It ensures that providers serving Oregonians are accountable to Oregon licensing boards, subject to our state's standards of practice, complaint investigation processes, and disciplinary authority when necessary.

This amendment does not eliminate telehealth. It does not block out-of-state companies from operating here. It simply requires that those treating Oregon patients and clients meet Oregon's professional standards. Oregon has pathways for providers to hold licenses to practice in multiple states, and many providers take advantage of this ability to provide telehealth services in multiple states.

Licensure is not a barrier, it is a safeguard. It protects clients, reinforces ethical practice, and maintains public trust in our behavioral health system.

At a time when telehealth is expanding rapidly, clarity and accountability are essential. HB 4070 with the A10 amendment strengthens consumer protections while preserving access to care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.