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To: michael@michaeldembrow.com

Cc: sandy.thielecirka@oregonlegislature.gov, jessica.wangler@oregonlegislature.gov

Subject: Please eliminate Amendment 3 on HB 2303

Hello,

I am a yoga instructor and sexuality education instructor (and one of your constituents!), and I am writing to urge you to eliminate Amendment 3 on HB2303.

I was unaware of how dramatically Amendment 3 impacted my industry until recently, and am shocked at how little review this amendment received! It is not an innocuous add on.

By categorizing Life Coaches and Wellness Coaches as “alternative behavioral health practitioners,” this amendment will limit who can be Health and Wellness Coaches in the state of Oregon. No other state or nation places this type of restriction on Health and Wellness Coaches or classifies coaches as alternative behavioral health practitioners.

At a recent Senate Committee on Health Care meeting, supporters of Amendment 3 noted multiple times; the amendment is just a simple ‘registration’ bill, I strongly disagree. Amendment 3 creates a new occupational regulation regime. The text of the amendment grants new authority to the Oregon Health Licensing Office to develop regulations that define qualifications to practice (page 2, line 27), practice standards (page 2, line 30), and associated “fines or other penalties” for violations of those practice standards (page 2, line 20).

Currently, Oregon’s occupational licensing and restrictions rank the state 6th most burdensome in the country(1). New, sweeping regulations that were hastily introduced to the public without stakeholder input will put additional state mandated burdens on coach practitioners, discourage innovation and may cause coaches to leave the state entirely.

This creates an undue burden on me and does not offer any additional protection to consumers. Please fight against this amendment! Thank you.

-Elona Landau
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