



Improve Access to Qualified Genetic Counseling for Oregonians

Support HB 2619, Genetic Counselor Licensure

Genetic conditions profoundly impact people's lives. In the U.S. alone, hereditary disorders collectively affect more than 25 million people and are associated with high morbidity, mortality, and economic burden in both children and adults. HB 2619 requires that providers who help individuals understand the implications of genetic conditions be licensed as genetic counselors through the Oregon Health Authority, Health Licensing Office.

Access

Genetic counseling is a specialized health care service. While many Oregonians need the services of genetic counselors, access to providers is limited and often concentrated in populous areas. Licensure would give genetic counselors the ability to work directly with a patient's primary provider no matter where they are located, allowing more Oregonians to maintain relationships with their community providers as they receive critical genetic counseling services.

Safety and Quality

Licensure provides Oregonians certainty in knowing that their genetic counselor has met necessary education and training standards. Properly trained genetic counselors reduce unnecessary testing and save patients money by ensuring the right tests are ordered for the right reasons. They also protect patients from harm caused by receiving inaccurate or improperly interpreted genetic test results.