

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to oppose HB 2117, which, if passed, will repeal the authority of the Oregon Board of Psychology's authority to issue initial Psychologist Associates licenses. I moved to Oregon from Kentucky, where this licensure is widely used and collegiate programs support Masters Level Clinical Psychology degrees. Choosing clinical psychology was important to me - the foundational skills and approach felt more in alignment with my professional interests than a counseling degree. I was thankful that Oregon accepted this licensure when my husband was relocated.

In a time when student loan debt is overwhelming to most, and doctoral degrees can be more time-consuming and expensive than many people's lives can allow, a Masters Degree is a great accomplishment for many. In a time when the need for mental health providers is immense, supporting and advancing the opportunities of Masters Level mental health professionals could be a great asset to the field.

I hope that the Board will reconsider this bill. We need more opportunities for mental health professionals than ever. The Psychologist Associate licensure could be an opportunity for growth in Oregon. In Kentucky, my former supervisor was a key component in advocating for the license, both in academia and on the Board. Her faith in Masters Level Clinical Psychologist Associates broadened and enhanced the number of mental health professionals. It also helped bridge the relationships of doctoral-level professionals and masters-level professionals, where a stigma can still exist. In this world that is so divided, we need to take every opportunity to come together. Please reconsider this bill, and show support for the Oregon Psychologist Associates. This is an opportunity for growth.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate all of the work that each of you does as a Board member.

Take Care,

Allyson Taylor, MA, Licensed Psychologist Associate  
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