

Thank you chair and committee members. My name is patty falkenstein, I am a QMHA, a drug and alcohol counselor, and also happen to be a certified hypnotherapist.

HB 2493, What exactly is the EMERGENCY here? This legislation is the first brick in the foundation of outlawing alternative therapy. First it will be a voluntary registry, then it will be mandatory, then legislation for requiring credentials, then it will be for certain credentials only, and then licensed only. This is a thinly veiled bill to get rid of alternative practices that incidentally produce no licensing fees for the state or any board.

This bill is a solution in search of a problem.

Customers wanting to vet potential alternative providers can easily do so without state overreach. The better business bureau, Google and facebook all provide access to information about people and businesses.

Imposes civil penalty for violation of registry listing requirements.

It won't be voluntary. This was in an earlier version of this that was attempted, folks saw through this transparent attempt to get rid of alternative therapy. This has the whiff of religious bigotry attached to it, and as I have been unable to find an origin or complaint I have to wonder...do the authors consider alternative therapy questionable or evil?

'Whereas unlicensed alternative therapy practitioners working in Oregon provide valuable services to Oregonians and are an essential part of the mental health workforce in this state'

yes they do, and it's important to support Oregon businesses rather than begin down a path of mandates, trainings, paperwork and creating so many obstructions to running a business. Who exactly does this benefit? The only benefit I see is the state reaping costs and fees with little actual impact to the people of Oregon. Section 6 clearly says this is no way means the state has approved the business, so what exactly are all the fees, applications and background checks doing?? This is a voluntary registry...to what end if it isn't 'state approved'???

Ethics and responsibility are desirable in any business, This bill is vague, unnecessary and will only restrict free trade.