



To: Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson,
and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health & Healthcare

Re: Supporting/Amending HB2977 to include Private Universities

My name is Dr. Mandi Hudson, and I am the Vice Dean of Western University of Health Sciences' COMP-Northwest campus in Lebanon, as well as a practicing psychiatrist.

WesternU proudly operates multiple campuses and doctoral programs in Lebanon, including the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program offered by COMP-Northwest, and programs operated by our College of Health Sciences including Doctor of Physical Therapy and Doctor of Occupational Therapy. **Each year, WesternU graduates more than 100 doctors from our Oregon programs, with the number continuing to grow.**

I'm writing today to offer our institutional support of the objectives of HB2977, including support of an amendment that would **expand the opportunity to any of Oregon's qualified institutions of Higher Education** who may be able to provide solutions to Oregon's mental health workforce shortage.

As we begin development of a Behavioral Health College and professional facilities on 150-acres of donated land in Lebanon, we are unequivocally committed to working together with stakeholders to improve access to these critical services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mae", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mandi Hudson, DO
Vice Dean, COMP-NW
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
Western University of Health Sciences