

## SB 531 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Health Care

---

**Prepared By:** Daniel Dietz, LPRO Analyst

**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/11, 2/27

---

#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure distributes \$1,600,00 from the general fund through the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to the Oregon Wellness Program.

#### DETAILED SUMMARY:

- Funds may be used for counseling, education, and research to eligible health care professionals.
- Moneys will be dispersed for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025.
- Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

*FISCAL: Fiscal impact statement issued*

*REVENUE: No revenue impact*

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Wellness Program (OWP) contracts with mental health providers to offer non-reported counseling sessions to Oregon-licensed providers, including nurses, certified nursing assistants, physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, podiatrists, dentists, dental hygienists, dental therapists, and others. The OWP was formed in 2018 in collaboration with participating providers, medical societies, healthcare systems, and educational resources ([link](#) to OWP website).

Provider wellness is among the issues discussed within the Oregon State University Health Care Workforce Needs Assessment, which identifies burnout as a contributing cause of provider shortages ([link to OSU report](#)). The Needs Assessment recommends, among other strategies, increased funding for the Oregon Wellness Program. *Analysis prepared by Aleya García Rivas, LPRO Graduate Intern.*