

## SB 531 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Health Care

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**Action Date:** 02/27/25

**Action:** Do pass and refer to Ways and Means by prior reference.

**Vote:** 3-1-1-0

**Yeas:** 3 - Hayden, Patterson, Reynolds

**Nays:** 1 - Linthicum

**Exc:** 1 - Campos

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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

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

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure distributes \$1,600,000 from the General Fund through the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to the Oregon Wellness Program.

#### Detailed Summary

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

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Availability of services to health care professionals with different kinds of licenses.
- Ability of providers to pay out-of-pocket for counseling services.
- Funding sources and sustainability of funding.

#### 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.

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. The Needs Assessment recommends, among other strategies, increased funding for the Oregon Wellness Program.

Senate Bill 531 appropriates \$1,600,000 to the Oregon Wellness Program.

*Analysis prepared by Aleya García Rivas, LPRO Graduate Intern.*