

Submitter: Gina Miller  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB531

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 531.

To the members of the Committee on Healthcare,

For the record, my name is Dr. Gina Miller. I am a family physician practicing in Sweet Home, Oregon, where I have worked for the past 6 years. I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 531.

Senate Bill 531:

- Appropriates \$1,600,000 for Healthcare Professionals to promote wellbeing through education, coordinated regional counseling services, telemedicine services, and research
- Directs the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to distribute moneys to the Oregon Wellness Program for the purpose of supporting the program.

As a Family Physician, I strongly support SB 531, which ensures Oregon clinicians have access to urgent, confidential, and non-reported mental health care. Protecting privacy in seeking support is critical to fostering a culture of wellness and reducing the stigma that deters clinicians from getting help.

I speak from personal experience. For decades, I have managed depression with counseling and medication. During a severe episode, I took a proactive, responsible step—pausing my practice for two months to seek additional care and ensure patient safety. Despite my diligence, the Oregon Medical Board launched an investigation into my fitness to practice, subpoenaed my counseling records, and mandated three years of costly monitoring, despite ultimately concluding I was never unfit. This experience was humiliating, unnecessary, and discourages clinicians from seeking care in the future.

Physician suicide rates are more than double that of the general population, with an estimated 300–400 doctors lost each year in the U.S (more than double that of the general population). We must create a system where clinicians can access mental health support without fear of professional repercussions. SB 531 is a critical step in ensuring that care is truly accessible, private, and without penalty.

I urge your support for Senate Bill 531. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

Gina Miller, MD