



**To:** House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

**Date:** February 27, 2025

**RE:** Support for HB 3229

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing on to provide our support for the passage of HB 3229.

Parrott Creek strives to offer person-centered and culturally responsive programs and services to address social determinants of health in our community. Our goal is for all people to experience social, emotional, and physical wellbeing with justice and hope. We have a robust and growing array of outpatient treatment services and will be opening a new 40-bed youth residential treatment campus this summer.

To quote the Parrott Creek staff person responsible for ensuring all relevant staff are properly credentialed to provide treatment services, she says:

*"The credentialing process for providers in Oregon is a tremendously tedious, frustrating and cumbersome process. The demand for behavioral health services only continues to grow, however the number of clients we can treat is determined by the capacity of our providers, and their bandwidth to accept new clients. There have been multiple instances where we have needed to hire new therapists in order to accept new clients, however once doing so their credentialing paperwork has taken anywhere from 60-90 days to process. This is extremely disappointing as we all know that for those seeking behavioral health treatment, time is of the essence. Furthermore, the paperwork itself is outdated, often inapplicable, misleading and confusing and the access to OHA staff for assistance in the application process is limited and ambiguous which makes the application process all the more overwhelming. In 2025 an application for credentialing should not be submitted via fax machine – particularly when sending private individual information. There is certainly a more efficient, straightforward, sensible way to proceed with credentialing behavioral health providers in the state of Oregon.*

We strongly urge the Oregon Legislature to take whatever measures possible to update and expedite the credentialing process so that agencies such as Parrott Creek can have qualified providers ready and available to provide these crucial services when clients need them.

Again, I urge you to support HB 3229.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Simon Fulford", written over a horizontal line.

**Simon Fulford, Executive Director**