



Comments in Opposition: House Bill 2016

From Chris Bouneff, Executive Director, NAMI Oregon

March 16, 2025

House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee

NAMI Oregon wishes to express its strong opposition to HB 2016, which would leave consumers of behavioral health services in the dark about disciplinary actions taken against clinicians regulated by the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists (OBLPCT).

As background, we are the Oregon chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. We are a grassroots, membership-governed organization composed almost entirely of individuals and families living with mental health disorders. With our 17 local chapters, we annually serve more than 15,000 Oregonians through our free education, support, and awareness programs.

Selecting a therapist is one of the most important choices those of us who live with mental health disorders will make when pursuing journeys of recovery and ongoing well-being. HB 2016 would eliminate from public scrutiny all information on disciplinary actions take by OBLPTC after a period of 3-5 years except for licensure revocations. Hiding this information after such a short period of time means that individuals and families living with mental illness will be unable to make informed choices.

A licensing board discipling clinicians under its purview is important information. The state should err on the side of ensuring that individuals and families have access to the full array of information so that they are fully informed and are confident in the choices they make when selecting a therapist.

NAMI Oregon sympathizes with some of the testimony submitted in support. But to wholesale eliminate disciplinary actions in this manner after such short time periods, and to do so without engaging a wide array of stakeholders including organizations such as NAMI and fully vetting the impacts, is imprudent at best and dangerous at worst.

NAMI Oregon strongly opposes HB 2016 as it impinges on our rights as consumers to be fully informed, and we urge a “no” vote on the legislation.