

Dear Chair Nosse and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

My name is Elisabeth Herrera, LPC, NCC, and I am the President of the Coalition of Oregon Professional Associations for Counseling and Therapy (COPACT), an organization that works on behalf of all licensed professional counselors, licensed marriage and family therapists, registered associates and students in counseling and marriage and family therapy programs. We are a partner of the Oregon Counseling Association (ORCA). Our mission is to advance access to quality mental health care for all Oregonians.

I am here today to express COPACT's support for House Bill 2016. Currently, disciplinary records remain publicly accessible indefinitely, regardless of the severity of the violation or the time elapsed since its occurrence. This practice can disproportionately affect professionals who have committed minor infractions, even after they have demonstrated a commitment to ethical practice and professional growth.

By implementing a structured schedule for the removal of such records, HB 2016 promotes a more equitable approach, allowing competent practitioners to continue their essential work without the perpetual burden of past, minor violations. This change not only benefits the professionals but also ensures that Oregonians continue to have access to a robust network of qualified mental health providers.

COPACT believes that HB 2016 represents a fair and balanced approach to maintaining public trust while supporting the ongoing professional development of mental health practitioners. We urge the committee to pass this bill to enhance the integrity and effectiveness of mental health services in Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Herrera, LPC, NCC  
President, Coalition of Oregon Professional Associations for Counseling and Therapy (COPACT)