

**TRAVIS NELSON**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
HOUSE DISTRICT 44  
NORTH/NORTHEAST PORTLAND



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**Testimony in Opposition for House Bill 3045**

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

For the record my name is Travis Nelson, State Representative for House District 44, North and Northeast Portland.

I am here to express concerns with HB 3045. To be clear, I support the intent of this legislation, which aims to protect public safety by allowing the State Board of Pharmacy to require evaluations in situations where there is concern about a licensee's ability to practice safely. However, as currently written, the bill raises serious concerns regarding fairness, financial burden, and due process for professionals under investigation and concerns that closely mirror those I raised on House Bill 3042, which I opposed earlier this session, and it has since been amended to address the concerns.

Specifically, I am concerned about subsection 10 starting on line 31 of page 2, which authorizes the board to mandate mental, physical, chemical dependency, or competency evaluations at the licensee's expense, without providing clear procedural safeguards or a way to challenge the order for evaluation. Most troubling, professionals are required to pay out of pocket for these evaluations while potentially losing income if removed from duty during the investigation. This is an undue burden, especially for those already experiencing financial hardship. Worse yet, there is nothing stating that they will be reimbursed for these evaluations if cleared of any wrongdoing. I'm also concerned that a retaliatory complaint could trigger an order for evaluation.

I also want to highlight some compelling testimony that has been submitted on OLIS:

**Andrew Hibbard of North Bend** wrote:

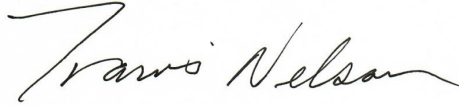
*"If passed, HB 3045 could discourage healthcare professionals from seeking necessary treatment due to fear of professional repercussions, directly contradicting national efforts to reduce stigma and improve treatment access. Oregon is already facing a pharmacy workforce crisis, with over 60 pharmacies closing in the past two years due to burdensome regulations, financial struggles, and excessive administrative oversight. This bill further discourages professionals from staying in Oregon, exacerbating an already dire situation."*

**David T. Petley, a Pharmacist of Coos Bay** added:

*"HB 3045 forces the accused pharmacist to pay for their own evaluation, which can cost hundreds or even thousands of dollars. This financial burden is imposed even if the complaint is later proven to be false or unfounded. There is no provision for reimbursement if the pharmacist is cleared of wrongdoing, which makes this policy punitive rather than protective. If the state believes these evaluations are necessary, then the burden of cost should fall on the state or the licensing board—not the accused professional. Pharmacists should also have the right to appeal the decision before being forced to comply."*

Many of these testimonies echo my concerns. I am eager to work with members of the committee and the Board of Pharmacy to address these gaps. HB 3045 can strike a more just balance between public safety and the fair treatment of professionals under investigation. When that happens, I will be proud to support this bill.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Travis Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Travis" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Nelson".

State Representative Travis Nelson  
House District 44, North/NE Portland