



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Mental Health Regulatory Agency

Board of Psychology

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Testimony on Senate Bill 1547

February 2, 2026

Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

The Mental Health Regulatory Agency (MHRA) provides administrative oversight to the Board of Psychology, which will be responsible for licensing and regulating licensed behavioral health and wellness practitioners as established under Senate Bill 1547.

The Board of Psychology supports Senate Bill 1547. The Board currently oversees 2,600 Oregon psychologists and has the capacity to add the new license type, which is not expected to exceed 17 new applicants during the first year (2027). Implementation efforts will be accomplished collaboratively with our partners, and we anticipate that necessary internal changes such as rulemaking and systems modifications can be absorbed within current staffing levels and budgeted resources.

MHRA staff contributed to the development of this concept through participation on the [House Bill 4151](#) Subcommittee on the Youth Behavioral Health Workforce, which ultimately produced a December 2025 report recommending that MHRA create a new bachelor's level behavioral health provider credential for graduates of applied training programs. MHRA staff also collaborated with the University of Oregon's Ballmer Institute for Children's Behavioral Health and the Oregon Psychological Association on the drafting of Senate Bill 1547 to ensure carefully considered language for adequate public protection, operational efficiency, and appropriate scope.

The Board of Psychology respectfully requests the Committee's support by moving SB 1547 to the Senate Floor with a "Do Pass" recommendation. I am available to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Todd Younkin, MHRA Executive Director

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