



Chair Pham, Vice Chairs Javadi and Edwards, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Tri-County Behavioral Health Providers Association (TCBHPA), we respectfully urge your support for the -4 amendment to HB 4070 clarifying that behavioral health telehealth services may not be provided by out-of-state providers who are not licensed to practice in Oregon.

As Oregon continues working to expand access to behavioral health services, telehealth remains an essential tool for reaching individuals in both urban and rural communities. However, maintaining strong licensure standards is critical to ensuring patient safety, quality of care, and appropriate clinical oversight.

Oregon is fortunate to have a strong network of licensed behavioral health providers who are committed to serving their communities. Many providers currently have the capacity to meet patient needs, and ongoing workforce development efforts continue to strengthen this system. Ensuring that services are delivered by Oregon-licensed professionals helps fully utilize this existing capacity while supporting timely, coordinated, and culturally responsive care for Oregonians.

The proposed amendment provides important clarity by affirming that providers delivering care to Oregonians must meet Oregon's licensing requirements. Licensure helps ensure that clinicians are properly trained, accountable to state regulatory bodies, and practicing within established professional standards. Without this safeguard, patients may be left with limited recourse in cases involving substandard care or ethical violations.

Additionally, this clarification supports the integrity of Oregon's behavioral health system and promotes a level playing field for in-state providers who are held to these standards. Clear expectations reduce confusion for patients, providers, and payers while reinforcing trust in telehealth as a safe and reliable method of care delivery.

TCBHPA supports thoughtful policies that expand access while preserving quality and accountability. This amendment strikes that balance by protecting patients and strengthening the behavioral health workforce.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to improving Oregon's behavioral health system.

Respectfully,

The TCBHPA Board of Directors