



Support for HB 4070 and the -1 and -4 amendments

The Oregon Psychological Association supports HB 4070 with the -1 and -4 amendments. Specifically, the -4 amendment provides important clarifications of the intention of Oregon's Telehealth system.

Oregon has strong licensure boards who provide oversight of licensees and trainees, implementing processes that protect consumers and ensure background checks, investigation of complaints, disciplinary action and the provision of ethical, high-quality care. Over the last several years, there have been many interstate compact bills especially for mental health providers, all of which seek to ensure that providers who are not from Oregon meet our standards of care and respect our statutes, rules and values.

The -4 amendment ensures that Oregon's behavioral health telehealth system requires providers to be licensed in Oregon, and if not, they are:

- Practicing under an Oregon Board supervised contract; or
- Practicing in Oregon within an agency that holds a Certificate of Approval, a Community Mental Health clinic, a FQHC or a community hospital

This is current practice for providers of physical health services. Any physical health provider who sees patients located in Oregon virtually holds an Oregon license even when they live outside of Oregon or even outside of the United States. The -4 amendment clarifies that the same must be true for providers of behavioral health services who see patients located in Oregon through telehealth. These clarifications will support the development of Oregon's BH workforce with opportunities to provide telehealth services within Oregon and ensure that all providers are connected to a Board or other responsible organization that ensures the quality of their practice, accountability for their actions and presence of malpractice coverage to ensure safety for Oregon's consumers.

Thank you for your support of HB 4070 and the -1 and -4 amendments