

SB 1547 Testimony

Intro: Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Anderson and members of the Committee

- Dr Robin Henderson, licensed psychologist testifying in support of SB 1547 on behalf of several entities
 - Chief Executive, BH, Providence Oregon
 - Chief Clinical Officer, Work2BeWell, youth mental health prevention education program
 - Legislative Chair, Oregon Psychological Association
 - Former member, System of Care Advisory Council testifying on behalf of the Council
- All these entities have evaluated SB 1547 and worked closely with Dr. McLaughlin and her team for more than a year to bring this to you—and all are in full support for a variety of reasons
- System of Care Advisory Council was directed to convene a workgroup under SB 4151 to assess the proposal for a new licensure type for Bachelor’s level mental health providers who work with children and youth
 - The committee’s report is on file with recommendations to support the new Bachelor’s level mental health provider known as “Behavioral Health and Wellness Practitioners”
 - The full SOCAC voted to support this recommendation while I was still a member of the Council in November of last year and offers their support for SB 1547
- The Oregon Psychological Association has engaged with Dr. McLaughlin and her team along with the Mental Health Regulatory Agency due to the proposal that the new licensure type be governed by the Board of Psychology
 - OPA recognizes that this new provider is a step in developing an educational pathway for individuals seeking to become psychologists and other graduate level mental health providers by supporting their education and development long before they begin graduate school
 - Legislative Committee worked at the direction of the Oregon Psychological Association Board for nearly a year to ensure that the new licensure type had solid boundaries for their scope that clearly differentiated them from Psychologists. We are assured that this new type will NOT be able to:
 - Diagnose
 - Providing testing services of any kind including educational, personality and intellectual testing (to name a few)
 - Practice independently in any way
 - Provide psychotherapy
 - We are confident that the Board of Psychology will promulgate rules within the defined scope as outlined in SB 1547 and are ready to participate in subsequent Rules Advisory Committees and Community Engagement Sessions to ensure the new licensure type is successful
- As Chief Executive for Behavioral Health for Providence, Oregon, I have responsibility for the more than 120,000 behavioral health visits that occur within Providence each year. Included in those numbers are the children, youth and families served by the Child/Adolescent Psychiatric Unit (CAPU) located at Providence Willamette Falls that is home to the only child psychiatric unit in Oregon serving youth under 11, and one of two adolescent units serving youth 12 – 17. We are also home to the Pathways Partial Hospital/Intensive

Outpatient programs at Providence Willamette Falls and Providence St Vincents, and the Partial Hospital/Intensive Outpatient Eating Disorders program for youth that is the only such program serving Medicaid recipients in Oregon.

- We are excited to begin hosting interns from the Ballmer Institute in anticipation of gaining a new workforce of trained Bachelor's level individuals to fill positions within all of these programs. This new workforce will provide and support:
 - Skill building and educational groups
 - Milieu supervision
 - Individual skill building and close observations
 - Other activities as directed by supervising clinical staff
- Lastly, as Chief Clinical Officer for Work2BeWell, we have been delighted to meet with the Curriculum Director from the Ballmer program to discuss how our clinically vetted educational curriculum can support their students by providing mental health and wellness educational materials already used in schools across Oregon and the US that meets Oregon's SEL requirements and, most importantly, is provided free of charge to educators and students to help improve mental health and wellness prevention education within already stretched budgets.
- All these organizations endorse SB 1547 and urge you to adopt the recommended amendments with a do-pass recommendation so we can continue to build out Oregon's behavioral health workforce in sustainable, clinically supported ways. Thank you.