

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION AFFECTING COUNSELORS AND MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPISTS

HOUSE BILL 2506-A

The Oregon Coalition for Consumer Mental Health Protection and Choice, a voluntary organization of licensed mental health professionals including Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT), Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC), and Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW), has taken the lead to develop and get HB 2506-A passed by the Oregon Legislature. HB 2506-A is a practice act that clarifies licensure for Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors. HB 2506A also provides insurance coverage for LPC and LMFT services when health plans cover similar services.

- **HB 2506-A** defines the terms for licensure and specifies qualifications, applications required, fees and examinations to the State Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists. It modernizes the statute to reflect national standards and definitions.
- **HB 2506-A** applies ONLY to LMFTs and LPCs, allowing other counseling professions to continue their practices. It specifically exempts alcohol and drug counselors, the clergy, alternative providers, and other counselors performing within individual scopes of practice. It also exempts employees of public and private agencies.
- **HB 2506-A** calls for group health benefit plans to provide coverage for services provided by Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists and Licensed Professional Counselors, *only if* those plans currently cover similar services by LCSWs or psychiatric nurse practitioners.
- **HB 2506-A requires that mental health practitioners** inform consumers whether or not they are licensed. At the same time, it allows Oregonians increased mental health care options and accessibility.

**IT IS IMPORTANT THAT LEGISLATORS HEAR FROM YOU ABOUT THIS
PROPOSED LEGISLATION.**

*Provided by Kristen Leonard & Elizabeth Cushwa for the Oregon Coalitions for Consumer
Mental Health Protection and Choice.*

The OBLPCT does not take a position on legislation, further information regarding the bill and the proponents of the bill can be found at www.oregonmentalhealth.info