

JANELLE S. BYNUM
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 51



COMMUNITIES

East Portland
Damascus
Gresham
Boring
Clackamas
Happy Valley

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 16, 2021

Dear Mr. Sekerak,

Please find the following vote explanation for SB 5523.

Mental health practitioners, like counselors and therapists, play a critical role in healing Oregonians.

Over the last year, I have witnessed unprofessional behavior from the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists (OBLPCT) leadership that has made me question whether the board is being properly supervised and whether its actions are overlapping with legislative functions. I am concerned about managing the separation of powers between a board/commission and the legislature.

While other licensing boards have been modernizing and professionalizing their fields, practitioners have repeatedly told me how challenging it is to get licensed whether they have been trained in the state or are from out of state. Further, simple things like being responsive to data requests are a challenge for this board compared to other boards where these requests are handled with ease.

I voted no on this budgetary request with an eye on developing oversight in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janelle Bynum", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Rep. Janelle Bynum