

**NEUTRAL TESTIMONY ON SUBSTITUTE FOR SB 34  
HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
MARCH 9, 2022**

Mister Chairman and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony on Substitute for SB 34. I am David Fye, the Executive Director of the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB). The BSRB is the licensing body for most of the state's mental health professionals, including Licensed Psychology, Master's Level Psychology, Social Work, Professional Counseling, Marriage and Family Therapy, Addiction Counseling, and Behavioral Analysis. Currently, there are more than 14,300 active permanent licenses in the professions we regulate.

As a public protection agency, the BSRB values the importance of having regulatory language that is current and appropriate for its public protection mission. However, the BSRB is a small agency, consisting of 9 full-time employees. The agency operates purely on fee funds received through revenue from licensing professionals. We strive to be diligent stewards of those finances, including the use of staff time. The agency is already in the process of reviewing its statutes and regulations on a rotating basis and plans to submit changes as appropriate, through requests for bill introductions or by submitting changes to existing regulations.

Over the past year, the BSRB has been examining its' licensing regulations, education regulations, and supervision regulations. The agency has also recently started the process of reviewing the unprofessional conduct regulations for all seven professions to determine whether existing language remains appropriate, given changes in technology such as social media and telehealth. The agency is also examining whether language should be added, removed, or modified in the regulations. The reason these efforts are highlighted is to demonstrate that the BSRB is already taking the initiative to review agency regulations. The Board is concerned that time spent drafting the comprehensive report called for in the bill will necessitate the agency diverting staff time away from its public protection mission. Therefore, the Board respectfully requests the BSRB be removed from the bill, ensuring the agency is able to continue focusing staff time on licensing professionals and investigating any disciplinary issues.

Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions.