



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE —

May 16, 2023

To the Honorable President and Members,
The Senate of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning herewith, without my approval as to Section 4, Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 5555 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to addressing the behavioral health workforce shortage and expanding access to peer services by creating the profession of certified peer specialists."

This bill is incredibly important for the development of our peer workforce. Creating the credentialing process is one that we have done for many professions and it is equally important here.

Section 4 creates a state certified peer specialist advisory committee. However, though most professions do include an advisory committee or board, the advisory committee in section 4 goes too far into the roles and responsibilities of the authorized agency and places agency responsibilities with an outside entity.

I will note that one of the advisory committee's responsibilities outlined in section 4 is to advise on rulemaking. I am instructing the Department of Health to ensure that there is extensive community engagement through the rulemaking process as this new credential is being developed.

For these reasons I have vetoed Section 4 of Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 5555.

With the exception of Section 4, Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 5555 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Inslee
Governor