From: Lynne Phillips-Werbel
To: JWMTR Exhibits
Subject: Support SB 860
Date: Monday, June 05, 2017 5:08:46 PM

I am writing to urge you to support Senate Bill 860, because insurance companies have found ways to limit people's access to mental health services in this state. SB 860 will keep insurance companies from demanding time consuming utilization reviews from mental health providers for basic services to clients, and limiting access to longer sessions by requiring prior authorization and/or underpaying for these session. This is like asking a medical provider to ask for prior authorization to treat a patient that comes into their office bleeding profusely, which requires more time and attention. In mental health, we are dealing with people in crisis every day. It is unfair, and unrealistic for us to have to ask for prior authorization, or special permission to use a code for a longer session every time we see someone in crisis. The end result is that providers like myself aren't paid adequately for our time and efforts, or we terminate our contracts with these insurance companies, leaving our clients unserved or underserved. The parity laws need to be improved by SB 860 so that the people of Oregon get the mental health services they need, and providers are paid adequately for the services they provide.
Thank you for your consideration of this important issue,

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