

Submitter: Becca Perry

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: SB704

I am a mental health counselor working in Oregon. My reasons for supporting this bill are both personal and professional.

Professionally, the complexity of insurance billing makes it difficult for counselors in private practice to accept insurance (or more than a few different kinds). It takes quite a bit of time and know-how to be empaneled with even one insurance company. This becomes a financial barrier for clients who are unable to use their insurance to pay for sessions.

Personally, I have been working a full-time job in IT in part to obtain good healthcare benefits. This limits how many counseling clients I can see (currently around 8) per week. Because I started counseling later in life, I can't afford to go without insurance as I transition from part-time to full-time counseling (this is a choice no one should have to make, regardless of age). Having insurance separate from employment would allow me so much more freedom to transition to the career that calls to my heart.

I imagine that there are many healthcare providers and would-be entrepreneurs in my shoes. Universal healthcare would help small businesses and private practice providers all over the state.