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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2455

I support this bill. I have been self employed most of my adult life over the past 40 plus years and have never heard of a line of business in the service industry that the customer can come back a year or more later and request their money back. As a group private practice mental health provider I bill primarily insurance and not a day goes by that I don't have a level of fear that an insurance company will audit me and request thousands of dollars back due to an unknown issue or error with my documentation which is impeccable as far as I know. There is not a great deal of consistent and straight forward guidance as to documentation expectations with insurance companies from the beginning. A large claw back from insurance would likely bankrupt my practice. Insurance audit practices are not only unfair but by nature discriminatory and biased and are driven only by money and not the consumer. If the practice was to truly to ensure ethical and quality care to consumers then insurance companies would support providers with documentation and not send them bullying threatening letters. No business should have to live with this fear, especially mental health service providers who are in such desperate need and make such great sacrifices to provide quality care to our patients. Insurance claw backs and unfair audits for mental health providers is just another form of a barrier to services for patients and an unacceptable stressor for the providers that serve this vulnerable population.