

My name is Samantha Auclair, and I am a Licensed Professional Counselor who has a solo private practice in Portland, Oregon. I primarily work with complex trauma and adjustment to disability and chronic illness, which means I work with a lot of medical trauma in particular. I am writing to ask you to pass HB2455.

As a professional, I strive for accuracy, transparency, and clarity in record-keeping. However, I have been hesitant to accept commercial insurance and the Oregon Health Plan because each insurer and coordinated care organization (CCO) has different requirements, and they are not required to provide written directions to providers to clearly explain how to successfully document services in order to pass audits. I believe the burden should be on insurers and CCOs to be transparent about what they expect in terms of documentation.

When a clinician does not know what is expected of them (and they may be paneled with multiple insurers and CCOs that all have different expectations), it becomes way too easy to make a very costly mistake. As a solo practitioner, a costly mistake may mean the end of my business entirely. And, if I lose my therapy business, I would leave the field. If enough practitioners get fed up enough to leave the field, that will have a noticeable impact on access to mental healthcare in our state.

I believe that passing this bill will increase access to care in our state, as therapists will be less hesitant to work with insurance companies and Medicaid if they feel more confident about what is expected of them.

Please pass HB2455.

Thank you,

Samantha Auclair, MS, LPC, CRC, NCC