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Chair Nosse and Members of the House Committee of Behavioral Health and Health Care:

My name is Stephen Rodgers and while I live in Washington currently, I practice and own a home in Oregon. I have had a private practice for 12 years. While I have not associated myself with insurance companies, I have many colleagues who have and I regularly hear complaints about unjust denials or the reclaiming of funds. I am asking the Committee to pass HB 2455.

The concern is that excessive and unfair auditing practices on the part of health insurance companies are discouraging providers to work with many insurers and driving many providers out of business. This has and continues to result in significantly limiting Oregonian's access to cares

Many potential clients are unaware when they sign up and pay premiums to an insurance company that most therapists cannot afford to take their particular insurance. And yet, their insurance companies are still happy to collect their monthly premiums.

This bill would help resolve some of the underlying issues that are detrimental to giving access to mental health providers for all Oregonians, which I understand is a high priority within the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to let the Committee know about this important issue. Your support of HB 2455 has the potential to help many thousands of Oregonians state-wide.

Sincerely,

Stephen Rodgers, LPC, LMFT