

Submitter: Laurie B Fieldman LCSW  
On Behalf Of: Therapists and clients  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure: HB2455

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

My name is Laurie B. Fieldman, LCSW, MS, and I am licensed in Illinois and Oregon. I have been an LCSW for 28 years and I spent many of those years working in the Chicagoland ALS community. Clients with Lou Gehrig's Disease do not ever survive the diagnosis and their families are changed forever by the losses they endure. Yet that work was not as depleting as my work is now because of the preposterous demands of Oregon's Medicaid documentation. Today I talked with the third amazing client in a week who shared their history of sexual abuse/assault with me for the first time in their life. While this work can certainly be draining, the privilege of helping other souls heal far outweighs the toll it can take on a therapist. However, the concern about Medicaid audits and the potential for loss of income feels like a burden that is becoming too heavy to carry. I do not want to provide services to other humans based on the insurance they have. Please pass HB2455 to help good clinicians provide the treatment that is needed and deserved by all.