



O R E G O N
INDEPENDENT MENTAL
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

February 11, 2025

Re: Support for Senate Bill 822

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

My name is Melissa Todd and I am an independently practicing psychologist in Eugene. I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Independent Mental Health Professionals (OIMHP), a legislative advocacy committee dedicated to strengthening mental health parity and access to mental health care in Oregon. We are supported by the Western Oregon Mental Health Alliance (WOMHA), a nonprofit association of multidisciplinary behavioral health professionals. OIMHP was part of the coalition that co-authored and advocated for HB 3046 (2021), the groundbreaking mental health parity law that solidified Oregon as a leader in state-based efforts to facilitate equitable access to mental health care.

OIMHP supports SB 822 because all Oregonians deserve access to in-network behavioral health providers and affordable services. Inadequate mental health networks have historically been used by some insurance companies to limit access to care as a means of containing costs. As a result, Oregonians have had to pay more for out-of-network care or have had to forego care altogether because paying out-of-pocket was unaffordable. SB 822 seeks to strengthen the existing network adequacy law by holding insurers accountable to more specific standards and measurable benchmarks.

OIMHP supports SB 822 to maintain Oregon regulatory authority over network adequacy. We have attended stakeholder meetings organized by DCBS to discuss the legislative concept for this bill, during which we learned that Oregon must take steps to meet or exceed federal standards for network adequacy laws in order to preserve regulatory control. As frontline Oregon-based behavioral health professionals, we appreciated the opportunity to offer feedback and would like to be included in future discussions. *We support keeping important decisions that affect Oregonians in Oregon.*

We respectfully ask for your support of SB 822 to expand and strengthen network adequacy protections in Oregon and thank you for considering our perspective on this important legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Todd, Ph.D." The signature is fluid and cursive.

Melissa Todd, Ph.D.
Licensed Psychologist