

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB61

I have been a mental health therapist since 2013 and my experience includes working as a clinician in community mental health, group private practice, and now my own private practice. Despite my years of experience and my extra dedication to trainings on documentation, I live in constant fear of recovery/insurance claw backs. The administration burden that makes healthcare so expensive is obvious to me here. Under the intense scrutiny of an audit, errors are bound to be found, particularly in a field where metrics are based on subjective information. In what other business can someone provide a service, receive positive feedback from the consumer (the client is being helped and keeps returning), yet be held to vague or irrelevant rules and ultimately be denied payment after providing the service? Preparing and undergoing an audit requires hours and hours of unpaid time. Hiring counsel prohibitively expensive. Clawing back payments months, even years later, is incredibly destabilizing financially and mentally, particularly for group practices and individual practitioners. For a state with limited mental health clinicians, these practices deter wonderfully talented and skillful clinicians from working with OHP clients. These claw backs aren't in the benefit of the consumers; it simply discourages smaller practices and individuals from accepting OHP who cannot bear the risk and cost of an OHA audit. I am strongly in support of this measure!