

02/24/25

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jennifer Reavis, M.A., LPC, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 61. The decision to become a therapist was a personal one for me, I started in the mental health field by accident. I graduated with my B.S. in Criminal Justice, with the intent to become a probation officer. In between going through the long processes of government applications, I was hired at a long term behavioral program for kids. Since then I have worked with a variety of individuals, most share similar life experiences of being reliant on government assistance and on Medicaid. I had access to a therapist during a really hard time in my teen years and fully believe that's why I am alive today.

The dark side of being a therapist is the business part, clawbacks for minor issues are a significant stressor to myself and colleagues. There has been a consistent lack of clarity in OHA's documentation expectations, I experience anxiety on the possibility that one clerical error means that I will lose income. I feel audits are needed for regulatory purposes, however it should not be at the expense of the providers.

I fear that with the ongoing lack of regulation in the utilization of audits and clawbacks presented by the OHA, more therapist's are going to discontinue accepting Medicaid. Given the current political and social climate, the people that are on Medicaid are the most vulnerable. I care deeply about my clients, they are already losing access to essential health care and there needs to be an incentive for providers to maintain acceptance of Medicaid.

My hope is this letter is taken into consideration during the decision making process. We need to do better for our providers and the clients receiving care.

Please vote in favor of Senate Bill 61.

Best,

Jennifer Reavis, M.A., LPC