

Submitter: Julianna Lucisano
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB61

I strongly support this measure. I am a LCSW in private practice, licensed in OR and WA. I work mostly with folks with are pregnant and postpartum and actively navigating some of the most important times of transitions in their lives. Mental health therapy can be essential in the impact on their family and, thus, our community. I have established my practice by design to accept insurance, with 50-60% of my caseload being folks using OHP. This was intended to provide quality care to a time in need. My financial stability to continue to provide this work is essential to be able to continue to serve this population. The potential for an audit to clawback funds based on lack of a humane and clear parameter of expectations for mental health clinicians could not only put my practice in jeopardy but has put me in the position recently of considering whether I want to continue accepting insurance for clients. In my 14 years as a clinical social worker in this area, it has been my experience that mental health providers want to do good work to support their community AND are interested and able in being collaborative with various stakeholders (e.g. insurance carriers) to be able to serve everyone's interests effectively. Supporting this bill will allow for a continued capacity to provide effective and needed mental health services for the whole of the community.