

Submitter: Anya Ludwig  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB61

As a mental health provider I understand the function of fear: It keeps us cautious and guides decision making when there is a possibility of a threat. Unfortunately, given the current standing legislation on clawbacks and the extensive timeline that it operates under, the mere possibility of "recovery of reimbursements paid on claims" equates to a huge threat to providers' livelihoods. What that means is that a vast number of providers do not accept OHP or severely limit how many OHP clients they see--out of fear. The impact of passing this measure would be more than just decreasing providers' fears and adopting a fair payment policy for services rendered and paid for--it would also have a positive effect of increasing the provider pool for high-need Oregonians seeking therapy. I hypothesize that this would be especially apparent for providers from marginalized communities who (with reason) may need to operate more conservatively based on a lack of financial safety net. Having a wider pool of providers both in numbers and in backgrounds is a win for everyone.

I whole-heartedly urge you to pass this bill and abolish the boogey man that is threat of clawback for valid services.