

Submitter: Terra Marzano  
On Behalf Of: Therapists in rural Oregon  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB61

My name is Terra Marzano, I am an LCSW with 20-years of experience providing mental health services to Oregon residents. I live and work in Tillamook County, a federally designated health provider shortage area, where I provide outpatient mental health and addiction treatment to adult Medicaid members who reside in Tillamook and Clatsop counties. I am the sole provider for my family and a solo private practice clinician.

As you have likely heard already, Medicaid's current audits and disproportionate clawbacks spell ruin for clinicians personally and professionally, often resulting in business closure and the subsequent dwindling of healthcare resources for Oregon residents. If clinicians in our region discontinue treating Medicaid members - which many of us consider given the aggressive nature of Medicaid audits - that would put additional strain on the county mental health systems who famously struggle to meet the needs of their current client panels. Severe Medicaid clawbacks devastate private practice therapists, all of whom play a critical role in filling gaps where the local community mental health programs fall short.

I urge you to support SB61 moving forward, offering reasonable protections for mental health providers (who are already accountable to their licensing boards) and community members from the impact of destructive and unreasonable Medicaid audits. SB61 proposes conservative adjustments to the current audit process, including fair recognition of provided care, positions audits as instructive vs punitive, reduces aggressive over-extrapolation for simple clerical and administrative errors (such as time in/out of visit) despite clinical improvement.

Thank you for considering the positions in support of SB61 and doing your part to ensure reasonable access to high quality healthcare for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,  
Terra Marzano LCSW  
Owner, Terra Marzano Therapy LLC