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On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health
Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2029

As a mental health professional, I strongly support this bill. The mental health crisis that we are currently facing is being further exacerbated by the inconsistent and punitive nature of working with insurance providers. Highly qualified, culturally and linguistically competent providers often stay away from paneling with insurance providers due to the fear of audits and unknown requirements which can lead to financial and professional ruin. As a single person practice, I myself often turn potential clients away because I am too afraid to work with their insurance plans. In my case, this often leads to Ukrainian clients having even less culturally competent providers to help them as they face trauma and uncertainty. If Oregon wants to remove barriers to accessing equitable mental healthcare then mental health providers must be protected. We cannot help the most vulnerable in our communities, if we are always having to worry about supporting our families.