

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

Dear Chairman Nosse and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

My name is Sarah Alexander and I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. I own a group practice in SE Portland and have been practicing for almost a quarter of a century.

I am writing this letter in support of HB2029. Insurance audits are abusive and unfair and limit access to care to the people of Oregon. Please help stop this practice.

You would think, as someone who treats people who experience trauma, eating disorders, substance abuse, depression, and/or anxiety, that the work I do with clients is the hardest part of my job. That is not what keeps me up at night, though. What keeps me up is the ever-present axe over my head of the threat of audit. I love to learn. Give me a training that tells me what you want to see in my documentation. I'm okay with that. What I'm not okay with is nebulous wording and ever-changing expectations (which I only hear about via others getting audited) which results in having to pay back thousands (sometimes hundreds of thousands) of dollars years after the work is done and the money is spent. That would bankrupt me. This constant threat is why I am considering closing my business and leaving the profession, which would be a disservice to my staff as well as the community we serve.

Just give us clear guidelines about what is expected in documentation and give us recourse to challenge when an insurance company is being predatory about claw backs. Our work is hard. Don't make us go bankrupt for work done in good faith.

Thank you for supporting this bill.

Sincerely  
Sarah Alexander