

Submitter: Haleigh Yurecko
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 Haleigh Yurecko and I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who has been practicing for four years. I own a small group practice in Clackamas County in Oregon.

I am writing this letter in support of HB2029. Although I recognize the importance of insurance companies being able to conduct audits, they have almost full freedom to do whatever they want. Their practices are abusive, unfair, and dangerous for small businesses. I have heard from many small group practice owners who almost went out of business or had to take on significant loans in order to pay for audits that occurred.

Insurance companies and Care Coordinated Organizations should not be able to take back money from businesses for appointments that occurred years ago. Insurance companies don't even provide specific instructions or expectations to providers about requirements for their documentation which makes it difficult for providers to follow requirements they are unaware of. I also don't believe that auditors who are not mental health therapists should be able to make decisions about clinical documentation. If an insurance company is going to take money from providers, it should only be for notes that do not meet their explicit requirements, rather than by reviewing a certain amount of notes and then taking back a percentage of all the money paid.

These insurance practices put small businesses out of business and will continue to do so if they are allowed to utilize their current practices. Not only does this harm businesses, business owners, and employees, but also Oregon residents. If this bill is passed, I am positive that more therapists will begin to accept insurances more often which will increase access to care for those struggling with their mental health.

Thank you for supporting this bill.

Sincerely ,

Haleigh Yurecko, LCSW