

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

My name is Linda K. Berlingen and I am an LPC. I am a therapist in Portland Metro area of Oregon and have been practicing for 20 years.

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.

Insurers attempts to "rake back" dollars through this kind of audit is detrimental to the community of mental health providers, consuming great amounts of time and causing much distress. As a result, therapists avoid participation in certain panels – limiting care to members of those panels. Members come to feel that their panels are "ghost panels" – with no actual providers who have the capacity to work with them.

Thank you for supporting this bill.

Sincerely

Linda K. Berlingen, LPC