

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

Dear Members of the House Committee of Behavioral Health and Health Care:

My name is Tara Crowley, I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in private practice where I primarily work with clients who have experienced complex trauma. I am located in Portland and provide services to clients in the Portland metro area and beyond. I have had a private practice for over eight years and have been working in the mental health field for over twenty years.

I'm writing to ask that you pass HB 2455.

The impact of audits has been detrimental to my colleagues and peers and has limited the insurances accepted in many private and group practices. The immense stress due to the time, energy and money spent trying to navigate an audit limits a clinician's ability to accept certain insurances. Especially for small practices, the time or resources to fight a large insurance company are limited to none. Many clinicians, including my close colleagues, do not have the profit margins to be able to pay back large amounts often collected after an unjust audit.

These threatening audits drive clinicians out of practice, prevent clinicians from starting a practice and cause clinicians to not accept certain insurances altogether due to the negative impact of audits. Access to care is limited enough, especially in the midst of a mental health crisis that impacts increasing numbers of people throughout the population. These audits greatly limit the availability of clinicians that want to serve the community. HB 2455 will make the audit process more transparent and fair, which will make providers more willing to stay on provider panels and to remain in practice in Oregon to provide care to our citizens.

Please support HB2455.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns with regard to this important issue. I appreciate your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Tara Crowley, LCSW