

Submitter: Elliot Townley  
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,

I am a Licensed Professional Counselor working in Portland, and I have been practicing since 2020 in both agency & private practice settings. I am writing this letter in support of HB2029. The lack of clarity around insurance auditing, the unilateral choice they can make about forcing me to give back funds, and the lack of any restrictions or guidance on insurance audits is one of the biggest threats to my livelihood. As someone who works almost entirely with Medicaid clients, with highly complex mental health & medical concerns, an unfavorable insurance audit could destroy my livelihood. While I understand the importance of having professional standards, I believe we deserve limitations on how far back in care an insurance company can reach, and clearly defined rubrics of insurance expectations that auditors must follow. Insurance companies & auditors are financially incentivized to find errors in our documentation, and we deserve protection and clear regulation to protect providers. I believe this bill will increase providers being willing to work with insurance companies, thus improving mental health resources & outcomes in Oregon. Thank you for supporting this bill. - Elliot