

Submitter: Kari Gjerde

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2029

My name is Kari Gjerde and I am a Licensed Professional Counselor in Portland, Oregon. I am writing to ask you to pass HB2455.

I manage all aspects of my solo practice from clinical to administrative/billing tasks. I currently choose to panel with insurance as a service to my current clients but many qualified clinicians are leaving insurance panels due to the fear, anxiety, and lack of transparency regarding all aspects of billing, documentation, and audits.

Despite my attempts to stay abreast of constantly changing and seemingly purposefully opaque guidelines that vary insurance to insurance, I worry that I have made a small misstep that could lead to a massive financially devastating clawback—I have heard horror stories from colleagues of this happening to them. All clinicians should know exactly what insurance companies expect in regards to billing codes, documentation standards, and treatment guidelines so that we can focus on what matters most- caring for and supporting a vulnerable population.

I hope you stand in support of this bill. Thank you for your time!