

Submitter: Johnnie Burt

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 Johnnie Burt. I am a trauma-informed LPC with over 20 years' experience working with hearing and deaf trauma survivors. I am located in Woodburn—one of very few LPCs in that area—but many of my clients are Salem residents.

I am writing this letter in support of HB2029. From my professional experience, responding to insurance audits is extremely time consuming and therefore limits the time available for me to see clients. While audits may occasionally be justified, the vast majority of them are arbitrary and as far as I can tell, serve no useful purpose other than to give insurance companies an excuse to "claw back" funds from practitioners. In no way do audits facilitate clients' recovery from the effects of traumatic experiences—and helping people find wholeness is the focus of my practice.

Insurance audits are abusive and unfair and limit access to care for Oregonians. Please help stop this predatory practice. Thank you for supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Johnnie Burt, M.A., LPC