

Submitter: Morgan Burdick

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 Morgan Burdick and I am a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner. In my years working in healthcare and mental health, I've seen how difficult it can be for some of the most vulnerable members of our community to get lifesaving mental health and substance use care due to a deficit of skilled providers who are financially accessible. More and more mental health care providers have chosen not to accept insurance due to difficulty making a living comparable with their years of professional education and training due to difficulty with insurance payments. Among my colleagues, we have all experienced issues with lack of transparency in rates, not being provided documentation requirements, difficulty with timely payment, or no payment at all. We provide care to patients without knowing if our care will be compensated with the insurance company with whom we have contracted and then can be subject to having that payment revoked months later for failure to document specific and varied requirements based on a documentation standard the insurance company will not provide publicly. There is a recent troubling trend of insurance companies not providing rates in their contracts and practices having no leverage to request increased rates that reflect increased cost of living and increased clinical skill of their clinicians. I am not aware of another sector, where work is completed without a clear contractual agreement for payment amount and timeline where the payor can later revoke payment for a job that was completed. Mental health providers simply request reasonable transparency and payment for the care we provide.

These unfair practices by profit-driven insurance companies result in less care mental healthcare for the people of Oregon. We have an opportunity to be a leader as a state in creating fair and transparent requirements from insurance companies that will help mental health providers stay on insurance panels where the people of Oregon can use their health insurance to access more affordable care.

Thank you for supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Morgan Burdick, MSW, MSN, PMHNP-BC