

Dear Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee,

I am a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) practicing in Ashland, OR, and a member of the Oregon Counseling Association. I am writing in support of HB 2029 because health insurance audits and clawbacks place significant burden on behavioral health providers, which creates downstream negative effects on Oregonians who need behavioral health care.

Current Oregon law allows insurers too much leeway and significantly disadvantages solo behavioral health providers and small practices. HB 2029 makes sensible reforms to the law that will support behavioral health providers who want to take insurance and increase access to behavioral health care for all Oregonians. Please vote to move HB 2029 forward.

I currently have not joined several insurance panels in the state due to their notoriety in engaging in both audits and clawbacks. I have a colleague that has had clawbacks of significant income due to a clerical error, not an issue with her treatment with her client. Allowing companies to engage in this is unfair to both clients and providers and will reduce the availability of providers for clients.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristin Kaijah Bjorklund

LPC License # C-5443