

Submitter: Julia Bryson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2029

To Chair Nosse and Members of the House Committee of Behavioral Health and Health Care:

My name is Julia Bryson and I am an LCSW. I am a therapist and co-owner of a group practice in Portland, Oregon. We currently serve several hundred Oregonians in Portland and across the state.

I am writing this letter in support of HB2029. The current reality of insurance audits has presented barriers to providing care for as many Oregonians as we would like. As a small business in our first five years of existence, a significant portion of our time is consumed by seeking out audit preparedness information and mitigating the risk of being unprepared for an audit. This takes away time from direct clinical care for clients, adds administrative burden to clinicians, and impacts our ability to gain and/or maintain contracts with certain insurers.

Currently, there is limited and inconsistent information available on the standards to which we are held in an audit. We have spent many hours seeking this information from local CCOs and commercial insurers and have received limited information, along with conflicting information that leaves us without clarity. Because of the potentially catastrophic financial consequences of an audit, gaining this information is vital to our stability. We are not against audits, but rather against the current way in which they are held and the lack of support and rights for providers.

Thank you for supporting this bill.