

Submitter: Jaybird Marmaduke

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 Birdie Marmaduke, and I am a Licensed Professional Counselor in the State of Oregon.

I am a mental health therapist, serving individuals in the Portland area and remotely across Northwestern Oregon and have been working in the field of community mental health setting for 12 years both in a crisis and Child and Family outpatient setting that predominantly accepts Medicaid, and working in private practice accepting private insurance in the last year. I was shocked at how confusing the process is to understand the auditing requirements of the various insurance companies, which negatively impacts the access of clients to needed mental health services as well as for Clinicians to keep their focus on maintaining excellent client care, learning new interventions, gathering client specific resources, and engaging in burn out prevention strategies, rather than experiencing undue anxiety and stress on paperwork in a framework that feels adversarial. When auditors are financially incentivized to find mistakes by applying clandestine rules, clients ultimately lose out by therapists burning out from the field both in community mental health and private practice settings.

I am writing this letter in support of HB2029.

Insurance audits are abusive and unfair and limit access to care to the people of Oregon. Please help stop this practice.

Thank you for supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Jaybird (birdie) Marmaduke