

Submitter: Margaret King LPC  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2029

Hello,

My name is Margaret King, MA LPC and I am a mental health care provider in the State of Oregon. I fully support this bill, as it would increase Oregonian's much needed access to mental health care by helping providers with the ability to accept insurance without unnecessary fear and barriers to providing care to clients. Insurance is crucial to access to services for many, as most Oregonians cannot afford cash pay services.

As an individual provider who accepts insurance for mental health care for my clients, I experience anxiety about the financial liability I hold when faced with the unclear expectations set by insurance companies and the aggressive, hostile audits occurring in our community. As a small business, an audit from a big, billion dollar insurance company could put me out of business and into debt, even if I am doing all I can to decrease risk. While mental healthcare providers want very much to follow our contracts to the letter, we often do not know how to do so and are faced with extreme liability and financial stress if mistakes are made. It is violent and unnecessary for excessively punitive measures to be placed on those who are providing care, treatment, and support to those in need.

Thank you,  
Margaret