

Submitter: Catherine Cooney

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2029

My name is Catherine Cooney and I am a licensed professional counselor in the State of Oregon. Please support this bill and help to end the practice of insurance companies blindsiding mental health providers with hostile and unfair audits. As a sole proprietor who is in network with insurance companies to provide care for our community members, I experience anxiety about the financial liability I hold when faced with the unclear expectations set by insurance companies. One audit from a huge corporate insurance company could put me out of business and into debt, even if I am doing all I can to decrease risk. Mental health providers want to follow our contracts to the letter, we often do not know how to do so and are faced with extreme liability and financial insecurity. Many providers in our state avoid or are tentative to contract with insurance companies due, in part, to the risk of unclear and aggressive audits. I too, am very cautious and contract with very few insurance companies. Passing this bill would offer some level of security to providers that they could know what to expect, and would increase access to care for the many in our community who cannot afford to pay out of pocket for services. Please pass this bill!