

Submitter: Sonja Mae Heifetz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2029

I am urging lawmakers to please pass this very important bill. Mental health providers like myself who run single person private practices live with fear and uncertainty about clawbacks because there is not enough support, training, and resources for private practice therapists to know how to properly meet all of the medicaid documentation requirements on their clients. I myself have reached out to CareOregon and OHP numerous times to get information and support and I was either never responded to or was told that support was not available for private practices. I have even sought legal consultation with the law office of Cooney, Cooney and Madigan and was told to just "cross my fingers and hope I never get audited." I was also told by my lawyer Mr. Cooney that CareOregon was "viscious" in their clawbacks to the point that one of his private practice clients had to file for bankruptcy. Private practice mental health providers deserve more transparency and support. We do not deserve to live with unnecessary uncertainty about the future of our livelihoods, families, and retirement due to clawbacks caused by lack of documentation support. I work so hard for my clients and my clients get better. I should not be unfairly penalized for my hard work due to documentation errors that can be prevented with transparency, resources, and support from the OHP and its CCOs. I urge lawmakers to pass this bill to ensure that mental health providers feels safe in continuing to deliver client care to the most vulnerable populations in our communities.