

Submitter: Sharon Bolles

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 Sharon Bolles and I am an LPC who has been practicing in Oregon for over 35 years. I also run a small non-profit community counseling center in southern Oregon .

I am writing this letter in support of HB2029, which provides some regulations for audits of mental health practitioners. The regulations in HB2029 are essential in supporting counselors in providing quality care to clients who can only afford mental health counseling by using their insurance. Current auditing practices by insurance companies and OHP create a great deal of stress for counselors, as the requirements and penalties are time-consuming and punitive. As a result, many practitioners are leery of taking on clients who use this coverage, which limits mental health resources for folks who need them - specifically those who cannot afford out-of-pocket payments for counseling.

Please help stop the punitive and excessive requirements of insurance companies by voting for this bill, thereby making counseling more available to all Oregonians who need such support.

Thank you.

Sharon Bolles, M.A., LPC