

Submitter: Craig Blackard

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 Craig Blackard and I am an LPC. I am a therapist in Jackson County and have been practicing for 11 years. I am writing this letter in support of HB2029.

Insurance audits are abusive, unfair, and limit access to care to the people of Oregon. Please help stop this practice. These audits are overly general and do not seek fairness in their application. They provide broad generalization power to the insurers while leaving providers powerless. I am positive they seek denial through administrative burden. This is a time in Oregon when credentialing and participation with commercial insurance and medicaid is encouraged and administratively supported. Not doing so leaves provider's naturally leaving participation with insurers and more ghost panels. A ghost panel is when an insurer sells a product, but actually is not contracted with providers to provide care where a member lives. This happens a lot, especially for children. Providers must follow administrative rules and timely filing deadlines, insurers should too. Thank you for supporting this bill.

Sincerely,
Craig Blackard