

Submitter: CORIANN MATTHEWS

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 Coriann Matthews and I am an LCSW that specializes in treating complex trauma and have been in this field in many capacities within the Rogue Valley for nearly 15 years. I own a small group practice with 3 additional therapists. I'm writing this letter in support of HB2029. Insurance audits are abusive and unfair while creating reduced access to care to the people of Oregon. Please help stop this practice. These audits not only pose challenges to mental health providers but also severely impact patient care. By deterring therapists from accepting insurance, these audits reduce access to essential mental health services. I have considered changing my practice to not take insurance for fear of audits as a major audit could shut down my practice, despite taking great efforts and increased cost of staff time completing documentation accurately.

Furthermore, the requirement for therapists to submit detailed client charts over extended periods compromises patient privacy. This invasive practice disproportionately affects those who cannot afford out-of-pocket expenses for mental health services, thus creating a significant equity issue. Individuals relying on insurance are forced to sacrifice their privacy, unlike those who can afford private pay.

Thank you for supporting this bill.

Respectfully,

Coriann Matthews, LCSW

Rogue Holistic Therapy