

Submitter: Amy Schumaker

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 Amy Schumaker, and I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) practicing in the Albany and Portland areas of Oregon. I have been working as an LCSW for five years, dedicating my career to providing essential behavioral health services to the people of Oregon.

I am writing in strong support of HB2029. Insurance audits, as they currently function, are excessive, punitive, and create unnecessary barriers to mental health care. The burdens placed on providers through these audits limit access to care for clients in need and create undue administrative stress that detracts from time that should be spent providing direct services.

The provisions outlined in HB2029, such as ensuring audits are conducted by behavioral health professionals, limiting recoupments for clerical errors, and preventing financial incentives for auditors to identify errors, are critical steps toward a fairer process. The bill also rightfully establishes clear expectations for documentation requirements and audit timelines, providing much-needed transparency and accountability for providers.

As a clinician, I worked with other clinical social workers who have experienced the impact of these harmful audit practices. The fear of recoupment, retroactive denials, and ambiguous documentation standards create an environment where providers are forced to focus on compliance rather than client care. I urge you to support HB2029 to protect both behavioral health professionals and the clients we serve.

Thank you for your time and for supporting this bill.

Sincerely,
Amy Schumaker, LCSW