

Submitter: Sarah DeMulder

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 Sarah DeMulder and I am an LCSW.

I am a therapist in Ashland Oregon and have been practicing for 15 years.

I am writing this letter in support of HB2029.

Insurance audits are abusive and unfair and limit access to care to the people of Oregon. Please help stop this practice.

As a therapist that finds importance in my clients being able to use their insurance to cover the cost of therapy, I have endured the stress and abuse by insurance companies. I have at times come close to moving to cash pay only as it would require a lot less time and reduce stress for me, but I keep allowing insurance as payment because so many people are not able to pay out of pocket, and there is an immense need for mental health therapy. I have seen so many therapists move to cash pay only as they just are unable to manage the demands of insurance companies and medicaid, etc. By supporting this bill you help to ensure providers like myself continue to receive insurance as payment. Currently, insurance companies put demands on audits that are not clear and clawback thousands of dollars without notice. Its unfair to a therapist that has been working with a client for years to all of a sudden receive an audit and have to pay back years of payment because they missed a checkbox or didn't understand the documentation requirement, but has given hours of their time through the years. It is unjust and needs to be stopped.

Thank you for supporting this bill.

Sincerely,