

Submitter: Charlotte Cheney

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 Charlotte and I am a LPC Associate, about a month away from achieving full licensure, in the Portland area and have been practicing for 2.5 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. It also prevents therapists like me from wanting to go into their own private practice, because insurance companies are allowed to change requirements for notes and then go back years, to retroactively deny notes and treatments that they previously approved, and demand hundreds of thousands of dollars back. This is something that small businesses and practices cannot afford. Aside from that, it is unethical for them to be able to change standards just because they want to make more money. Therapists are not in this business to become rich, we are here to help people and just ask that we are able to make a living wage while doing so, and insurance audits make it impossible to be confident that we can. Even if we are following all their rules and expectations today, what if they change those tomorrow and say that we were wrong today? That we have to give our earnings from the past three years back? How is that fair or just? Please help stop this practice, it is harming the citizens of Oregon because their therapist are spending time that they could be researching tools, resources, or preparing for sessions, stressing about if they will lose their house because of insurance clawbacks.

Thank you for supporting this bill.

Sincerely
Charlotte H Cheney