

Submitter: Tahlia Harrison
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:

I am a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in the NE Portland area of Oregon and have been practicing for 5 years. I am writing this letter in support of HB 2029. As someone who has been in the field and heard from colleagues about their experiences with insurance audits it is of utmost importance that these exploitative and unfair practices are reformed. Insurers and CCOs current practices as it stands deters clinicians from taking insurance thereby limiting access to care for the people of Oregon. Access to mental health care in this state continues to be unacceptably dismal and this will not improve so long as there is an unjust and threatening audit process. I have heard first hand accounts of providers going out of business due to these conditions and as a result is leading me towards discontinuing my relationships with insurers and CCOs in 2025 if these conditions continue.

Oregon is in dire need of mental health care providers to be able to practice within a transparent and just system. HB 2455 will ensure this process is far more transparent, and engaged with when necessary thereby encouraging providers like myself to stay on insured panels and remain in practice. Like many others, I provide care to some of Oregon's most vulnerable citizens who should not be punished by the lack of consistency between each carrier and CCO. These organizations are not currently required to provide us written directions clearly explaining how to successfully document services in order to pass audits yet continue to expect full compliance, this is unacceptable. HB 2455 will ensure the highest level of quality control and reassurance to Oregon providers by requiring each insurer or CCO to provide clear directions when submitting mental health claims and provide exact guidance on and what must included in their documentation to reduce the number of recoupments in audits. If you care about addressing Oregon's mental health care crisis and access to care, this bill will move the needle. Please pass HB 2455.

Sincerely,

Tahlia Harrison, MA, LMFT
OBLPCT #T2807