

Submitter: Anne Emmett
On Behalf Of: WOMHA
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2029

Dear Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee,

I am a licensed clinical social worker with a private psychotherapy practice in Portland , and a member of the Western Oregon Mental Health Alliance (WOMHA). I am writing in support of HB 2029 because health insurance audits and clawbacks place significant burden on behavioral health providers, which creates downstream negative effects on Oregonians who need behavioral health care. Current Oregon law allows insurers too much leeway and significantly disadvantages solo behavioral health providers with small practices such as myself. HB 2029 makes sensible reforms to the law that will support behavioral health providers who want to take insurance and increase access to behavioral health care for all Oregonians.

I have had a full time private psychotherapy practice for over a decade and during that time have experienced insurance clawbacks, sometimes for a mistake that the insurance company made the year before! It is difficult enough to maintain a solo practice and very disruptive when you have an unanticipated large expense to pay. HB 2029 will help providers who bill insurance and help clients who want to access their insurance benefits. Thank you in advance for support of HB 2029.

Sincerely,

Anne Emmett LCSW
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Portland, Oregon 97205.

Please vote to move HB 2029 forward.