

Submitter: Ernest Johnston

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB951

My name is Ernest and I am a clinical social work associate, I work in both Multnomah and Clackamas county in community mental health and private practice, as I work two jobs. I have a Master's Degree in Social Work and have had over 4 years of experience in working in community mental health.

I am writing to express my support for SB 951. I have had personal experience, primarily in my part-time private practice, where corporate organizations such as insurance companies have exercised control over my clinical decisions and treatment. I've also been witness to private equity firms and corporations controlling clinical decisions in the community, in both medical and mental health contexts, as my work as a case manager allows me to assist clients in a variety of roles. I firmly believe and see the importance of clinicians having the final authority over any decisions that impact client care. All too often, decisions are being made that oppose what a physician, pharmacist, clinician, nurse, or other medical professional recommends. I firmly believe it is important that clinical decisions of any kind should only be dictated by the professionals who have education and experience in that profession, not by corporations who do not have the education to back such decision making and do not personally know their clientele.

Thank you for your time and consideration in supporting Senate Bill 951.