

Submitter: Mary Beth James

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4028

My name is Mary Beth James and I am a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. I am the sole provider for my therapy business, Cottage Counseling, LLC. I serve a rural area in Cottage Grove, Oregon and provide individual, couples, and family therapy. I am writing to support measure 4028.

I have been licensed since 2012 and have worked as a therapist in non-profit organizations, group practices, and in solo private practice. I have also worked as a clinical supervisor in non-profits and county government. Throughout my entire career, the threat of insurance (Medicaid and commercial) audits and clawbacks has caused undue stress to providers and agencies.

We need to make the environment easier for therapists to provide care and for individuals to enter the field, not harder. Oregon consistently ranks at the bottom nationwide in terms of access to care for mental health services. Measure 4028 is a very positive step toward leveling the playing field. Please support this measure!