

Submitter: Brent Frazee
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4028

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 4028, and to emphasize the necessity of such reform in order to protect Oregonians' affordable access to quality mental health care. As a psychiatrist and psychotherapist in private practice in Portland for nearly 9 years now, I am acutely aware of, and myself wrestle with, the dilemma that many independent mental health practitioners face in deciding whether or not to accept insurance in their practices. I very much prefer not to limit my practice to those who can afford to pay out of pocket. I wish to continue to work with patients across the socio-economic spectrum, and I believe that this is how our health care system ought to work. However, the threat of audits that have the power to claw back up to 30 months worth of claims that have already been paid, for services that have already been rendered, on the basis of identifying arbitrary, petty supposed deficiencies in documentation, and with very limited ability on my part to remedy or appeal such decisions - this very seriously threatens the security and viability of a practice in which insurance is accepted, and creates a strong pressure to accept out of pocket payment only. I believe this bill would be greatly beneficial in allowing mental health care professionals to feel reasonably secure in choosing to accept insurance in their practices, and would thus ultimately improve mental health care accessibility and quality for Oregonians.