

Submitter: Anne Emmett

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4028

Dear House Committee Representatives On Behavioral Health,

I am a licensed clinical social worker in a solo private practice in Oregon for over 25 years and I support HB 4028. I am part of the Oregon Independent Mental Health Professionals group . I believe that this bill will help provide easier access to mental health services for Oregonians as it will help make independent psychotherapy practices more sustainable by providing requirements of insurance companies regarding their current practices of recoupment of funds from clinicians as well as audits. I myself have had requests for repayment to the insurance company up to a year after I had provided the clinical service to the client. This is stressful, often confusing as to why they are requesting the money and then to have to pay a lump sum at once is impractical and a burden on a solo private practice. This bill will also improve transparency to DCBS and clinicians.

Lastly the bill will provide improved parity reporting requirements and provide the clarity and consistency needed to ensure and strengthen parity in practice . Thank you for your consideration of supporting this important bill. Anne Emmett LCSW