

Rosenberg Corey

From: Paula Trent <paulajtrentlmft@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 4:48 PM
To: SHS Exhibits
Subject: Please Support Senate Bill 860

Hello,

I'm writing to request you support Senate Bill 860. As a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist I have several concerns about the reimbursement rates for mental health professionals. The first is that many insurers reimburse mental health providers at a lower rate than their medical counterparts. Licensed clinicians have at least a Master's degree, yet many of us are reimbursed for our services at rates lower than those on the medical side who have a four year degree. Second, insurers reimbursement rates for in-network providers are substantially lower than those paid to out-of network providers based on "maximum plan allowance". The damage this causes is decreased access to folks with insurance as providers opt out of insurance panels, higher cost for our clients, and increased costs paid by insurers. No one is happy. Mental health providers are not asking to be treated in a way that is special or different. We are only asking to be paid fairly for the services we provide. Take a look at what a medical provider with a Master's degree earns, then compare it to a Master's level mental health clinician.

Thank you,
Paula Trent, LMFT