

Rosenberg Corey

From: Tina Amorok <drtina@amorokalliance.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 10:40 PM
To: SHS Exhibits
Subject: SUPPORT SENATE BILL 860!

Dear Senate Committee of Human Services,

As cited in the white paper by Oregon Independent Mental Health Professionals, Salem OR
(For more information, contact J.L. Wilson or Justen Rainey (Public Affairs Counsel) – 503.363.7084):

Mental Health Provider Reimbursement Rates Should be Consistent with the Oregon Mental Health Parity Law. Inadequate mental health reimbursement undermines the mission of the ACA to promote a robust integration of medical and mental health services to meet the overall health care needs of insured citizens. Parity in reimbursement practices is needed:

- a) to support an adequate mental health work force,
- b) to assure consumers will have access to in-network mental health providers to reduce their out of pocket costs for services, and
- c) to assure that any insurance benefit design, or the implementation of benefit design does not discriminate against an insured based on health factors (i.e., mental health status, mental health condition, or mental health history) (Federal Regulations: 45 CFR 156.125, 45 CFR 146.121, 45 CFR 147.110, 45 CFR 156.110).

Outpatient reimbursement rates have declined or stayed basically flat for behavioral mental health providers over the last decade. For example, in 2009 Regence decreased payment for psychologist services so that psychologists are now paid in 2017 about a third less than what they were paid in 2008.

As a psychologist in private practice, I ask that you support Senate Bill 860. Support us to support and provide sustainable evidence based services to our communities.

Thank you.

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