

Rosenberg Corey

From: Steven Woolpert <stevenwoolpert@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 9:29 PM
To: SHS Exhibits
Cc: Stevenwoolpert@gmail.com
Subject: SB 860

Senators & Representatives of the Oregon Legislature:

I am urging you to support Senate Bill 860 which takes the needed steps to make Mental Health parity in Oregon a reality. As an LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor) in Oregon for over 25 years I have encountered many roadblocks for clients to be covered for mental health services through their insurance plans as well as getting reimbursed for those services. This is even after parity legislation has been in effect to equalize physical and mental/behavioral health conditions for reimbursement.

Currently, my position as a Behavioral Health Consultant in a primary care clinic in rural Oregon (Maupin) has shown me the effects on clients of this dilemma and that SB 860 is addressing. The Oregon Health Authority recognizes the value of mental & behavioral health services as they contribute to healthier citizens in the state, and is working out reimbursement processes as well for licensed providers. Oregon has been a leader in transforming healthcare so that citizens and providers are able to have access to and get payment for needed services. SB 860 moves us forward in this important state process. Please support it.

Respectfully,
Steven Woolpert, LPC
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