

## Rosenberg Corey

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**From:** Kathy Reicker <kathyreicker@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 15, 2017 10:11 AM  
**To:** SHS Exhibits  
**Subject:** Support HB 860

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of HB 860 which would begin to ensure that mental health professionals be reimbursed at equivalent rates as physicians. I am in support of this bill as a highly trained mental health practitioner with a masters degree with nearly 40 years of experience and over ten years of post degree advanced psychotherapy training. I received my MSW in 1976 and worked in community mental health for nearly ten years before going into private practice. During this time I undertook additional training in family systems therapy (four years) and in 2000 I began Psychoanalytic Training through the San Francisco Psychoanalytic Center and the Oregon Psychoanalytic Center to become a psychoanalyst. ([www.oregonpsychoanalytic.org](http://www.oregonpsychoanalytic.org)) This training was an additional six years after which I became certified by the American Psychoanalytic Association and later I was appointed as a Training and Supervising Analyst by the American Psychoanalytic Association which allows me to train other psychoanalysts which include psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and other licensed mental health practitioners. I am on the faculty of the Oregon Psychoanalytic Center where I teach physicians, psychologists, social workers, etc. Psychoanalytic Training is the most comprehensive and in depth post degree/post licensure mental health training offered and is sought by practitioners of all mental health disciplines. I am in the position of training psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers in the practice of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis. My training in conducting psychotherapy goes far beyond that of most psychiatrists and other mental health practitioners.

Over the last forty years, I have seen the fees paid by insurance companies reduced on a systematic basis. I am now reimbursed by insurance companies at the same rate I was paid in 1986 when I began. I am paid the same rate by insurance companies as a newly licensed social worker out of graduate school for two years. I am paid far less than psychiatrists who prescribe medications but have never been trained to conduct psychotherapy.

How does this ensure quality of care? The fact is, it doesn't. When there is no differentiation between mental health practitioners on the basis of post graduate training and years of experience, patients suffer and quality of care suffers. It is time to protect patients seeking mental health services by ensuring equitable pay by insurance companies. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathy Reicker, LCSW

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