

Testimony submitted via email.

Dear Representative Greenlick,

I urge you to support House Bill 2778. It will prevent barriers to alternative health care. These modalities including massage therapy, acupuncture, and chiropractic are very important deterrents to prescription drugs. Oregon leads the nation in opioid abuse and access to CAM therapies is an important option to combat this epidemic.

In 2017 St. Charles Hospital's (a leading employer in Bend) insurance plan raised the copay on CAM therapies like massage therapy and acupuncture from \$0 to \$50 per visit. This barrier of a high deductible, up to \$40 more than physician copays, is a difficult barrier for many people seeking alternative and complementary care. It is cheaper to go to their primary care physician and get a prescription than it is to get a massage. I have lost multiple clients this year who have been forced to use conventional drug therapy, instead of their preferred modality due to these rising costs.

Please support HB 2778 and ensure Oregonians have adequate access to healthcare.

Yours,

Andrea Andrus
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