

**From:** Rebecca Hart  
**To:** [JWMTR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** Support SB 860  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 06, 2017 11:32:52 AM

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To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of SB 860. I am a licensed psychologist in the state of Oregon. My current job primarily works with Client who have medical insurance. I have repeatedly come across situations in which their attempts to seek mental health services are curtailed due to high costs and restrictive practices set by their insurance companies. This is unfair and goes against the existing Mental Health Parity law. These individuals would have been able to access services if they had no insurance, but currently have limited options available due to restrictive insurance practices.

Here is just one example: I had one family come for help for their child. We completed an intake assessment, and when it was determined that the Client did not fully meet diagnostic criteria for a major mental health condition (they had a "v" code diagnosis), their insurance company refused to pay for the initial assessment in which they were asking for a professional evaluation to determine the presence (or absence) of a diagnosis. This created additional financial hardship for the family as they were then required to pay the full fee, instead of insurance covering it. When individuals go to a medical provider it is to determine the presence or absence of various medical conditions. Regardless of the outcome, the insurance companies pay for the professional evaluation. Mental health should be the same.

I strongly urge you to support SB 860 so that Mental Health Parity becomes real, the way the law intended it to be.

Sincerely,  
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Oregon Licensed Psychologist, #2201