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**Joint Committee on
Ways and Means**

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Rep. Dan Rayfield, House Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Greg Smith, House Co-Vice Chair

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee
Re: SB 860 Relating to mental health treatment providers

Senator Hansell: “SB 860 requires the Department of Consumer and Business Services to conduct examinations of health insurance carriers to review reimbursement parity and utilization management procedures for behavioral mental health providers, as compared to medical providers and mental health providers with prescribing privileges.

The bill directs DCBS to adopt rules, based on the results of the examinations, to ensure mental health parity and network adequacy statutes are fully implemented. DCBS is also directed to report to the Legislature with their findings by September 1, 2019.

DCBS does not currently conduct examinations such as the one required by this bill. The agency will issue a contract to obtain the correct expertise. The cost to examine 12 carriers is between \$33,500 and \$50,000 per examination. Consistent with current practice, subject insurance carriers will reimburse DCBS for the cost of the examination.

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends SB 860 be amended by the -A6 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.”