

Submitter: Christina Lombardo  
On Behalf Of: Chirons Cave Holistic  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure: HB2455

My name is Chris Lombardo and I am an LPC and CADC1 in Oregon. I am writing to ask you to pass HB2455.

Please end the abusive practice of insurance companies using audits as an income stream. Under current law, insurance companies can come back years after a service and require thousands, even tens of thousands of dollars from the clinician, after the client is long gone and has completed therapy. They will even withhold payments from other clients until the debt is paid. This is our livelihood being effected. Counselors deserve to know what is expected in audits so they can know how to document to pass them. As a professional, I strive for accuracy, transparency, and clarity in record keeping. Insurance companies should be held to a similar standard, and limits should be placed on audits so that providers do not have to live in fear by simply taking insurance.

Many of my colleagues including myself have given serious thought to not taking insurance at all, which would be a huge disservice to our community and clients—but we cannot live securely or pay our own rent when we are always under the thumb of predatory audits by insurance companies. Passing this bill will increase access to care in our state. Please pass this bill.