

Submitter: Michele Yurgin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2455

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To: Chair Nosse and Members of the House Committee of Behavioral Health and Health Care,

I am a Licensed Professional Counselor in Rainier, Oregon. I've been a fully licensed provider in Oregon since 2022, and I've run my own full-time private practice since 2022.

My work specializes in working the Veteran community and the LGBTQIA+ communities which are very variable to mental health struggles and have higher than average suicide rates, especially in Oregon. Because of this, please pass HB2455 to protect the rights of mental health providers in Oregon and to make mental health services more accessible to Oregon residents.

Current laws do not provide adequate protections to small businesses and sole proprietors, which discourages many providers like myself from accepting insurance and therefore limits access to necessary mental health care for many Oregon residents. Given that Oregon is currently ranked 49th for its provision of adult mental health services in the country, it is evident that we need to make policy changes in order to improve our state's mental health system. HB2455 is a step in the right direction.

Allowing insurance companies to recoup funds for up to 30 months creates an undue burden of financial risk to providers. Many other states have adopted restrictions similar to HB2455 that limit the timeline that insurance companies have to engage in audits and to pursue "clawbacks". A 6-month period of recoupment is much more sensible and poses less risk of financial ruin for individual providers and small group practices compared with current policies. I suggest 6-months due to the reimbursement cap given by insurance companies to submit "correct" claims within a 3-month period from date of service.

Additionally, the transparency this bill proposes for audits will enable providers to feel more confident accepting insurance and will increase access to care for many Oregonians

that
need it. Please pass this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Michele Yurgin LPC, LMHC, NCC
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