

Submitter: Jor-EI Zajatz
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB61

Dear Senator Hayden,

I am writing to express my strong support for your bill, ****Relating to Medical Assistance Provider Audits****, which seeks to prohibit the recovery of reimbursements paid on claims if providers can verify that services were rendered. As a licensed professional counselor in private practice for over 10 years, I deeply appreciate your efforts to protect healthcare providers like myself from the financial and emotional burden of health insurance clawbacks.

In my years of practice, I have dedicated myself to providing essential mental health services to individuals and families in our community. However, the constant threat of clawbacks—where insurers demand repayment for claims they previously approved—has created significant stress and instability for my practice. These retroactive audits often occur years after services were provided, and even minor clerical errors or technicalities can result in devastating financial penalties. This not only jeopardizes the sustainability of my practice but also undermines my ability to focus on providing quality care to my clients.

Your bill's emphasis on protecting providers who can verify that services were provided is a critical step toward fairness and accountability in the medical assistance program. It recognizes the importance of supporting healthcare professionals who are doing their best to serve their patients while navigating complex billing and reimbursement systems. By preventing unjust clawbacks, this legislation will help ensure that providers like me can continue to offer vital services without fear of financial ruin.

I urge you to continue championing this bill and to advocate for its swift passage. Mental health professionals, particularly those in private practice, play a crucial role in addressing the growing mental health crisis, and we need policies that support our work rather than create unnecessary obstacles. Your leadership on this issue is deeply appreciated, and I am hopeful that this bill will bring much-needed relief to providers across the state.

Thank you for your dedication to improving our healthcare system and for considering the perspectives of private practice professionals like myself. Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide further insight or support as this bill moves forward.

Sincerely,
Jor-El Zajatz, LPC