

Submitter: Ryan Smith
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2029

Dear Chairman Nosse and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

My name is Ryan Smith and I am a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Central Willamette Valley area of Oregon and have been practicing for 16 years. I am writing this letter in support of HB2029. Insurance audits are abusive and unfair and limit access to care to the people of Oregon. Please help stop this practice. Most of us mental health workers entered this profession because the work is meaningful and gives purpose to the time we spend on this Earth. Our giving often comes at a cost of pursuing more financially lucrative ventures.

Other players in the healthcare field including health insurance companies, unnecessary payment processors, and other organizations involved often do not have client care as their main goal. They are interested in pleasing their shareholders or hoarding as much wealth for very few people at the top. This is something that should never be allowed for something which is a human right and a necessary public service.

Unfair, lengthy, cumbersome, and seemingly purposely complex processes implemented by such companies are meant to wear down the providers so they give up more and more of their hard earned income. It's simple exploitation dressed up in a false narrative of "protecting the consumer" language.

The tactics used are not in place to protect consumers. They are meant to extract and recoup income from providers after doing good in faith work for the public. Please help protect me and my fellow providers from these increasingly abusive efforts so we can stay focused on caring for others without having to consider leaving the insurance panels who use these methods, or worse off, the profession as a whole because we cannot sustain this work under constant oppression.

Thank you for supporting this bill.

Kind regards,

Ryan Smith, LMFT