

Submitter: Kathy Lawrence

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 Kathy Lawrence and I am a LCSW practicing in Oregon since 2008 and in private practice since 2024. I am writing this letter in support of HB2029.

I have been committed to paneling with insurances because I would not have been able to afford the therapy that saved my life during a cancer episode if I had not been able to use insurance. Many colleagues warned me about accepting insurance: the lack of information given about requirements, the difficulty contacting them if there are questions or issues, and the potential for clawbacks due to errors potentially audited years after the service. I worry every day about the potential for an unknown documentation requirement or a simple error to cause me to lose payment for services I did provide. I have found it incredibly difficult to find clear information from each insurance and/or CCO, excepting CareOregon, about their requirements. Bill HB2029 would help all counselors work with insurances with fairness and clarity and ease their ability to provide counseling services for those in need. We need more counseling availability in Oregon not less! Thank you for your consideration.