

Submitter: William Burt  
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 William Burt. I work in a support capacity for an LPC who serves the Woodburn area—one of very few LPCs in that area. She has been practicing for over 20 years.

I am writing this letter in support of HB2029. Many people assume that LPCs enjoy a cushy job, needing only to sit with clients and listen to their stories. In reality, counseling per se occupies only about 10-15% of a counselor's time. The rest is spent on required paperwork, including responding to requests for audits. These audits are very time consuming. As far as I can tell, audits simply give insurance companies an excuse to "claw back" funds that hard-working practitioners have already been paid. Audits do not contribute to the health and well-being of clients, which should be our primary concern. Instead, responding to audits takes up substantial resources, limiting the time available for seeing clients. The vast majority of LPCs and LMHPs are honest professionals who want to help people who have mental health issues.

Insurance audits are abusive and unfair and limit access to care for Oregonians. Please help stop this practice.

Thank you for supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

William Burt, M.S.