

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

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Dear Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee,

I am a Licensed Professional Counselor in Salem, Oregon and a former member of the Western Oregon Mental Health Alliance (WOMHA). I have had my own practice since 2019. I am writing in support of HB 2029 because health insurance audits and clawbacks place significant burden on behavioral health providers, which results in negative effects on Oregonians who need behavioral health care. Current Oregon law allows insurers too much leeway and significantly disadvantages solo behavioral health providers and small practices. HB 2029 makes sensible reforms to the law that will support behavioral health providers who want to take insurance and increase access to behavioral health care for all Oregonians. Please vote to move HB 2029 forward.

The prospect of being audited or getting a clawback makes me concerned that this will not be a sustainable career for me or that I will not be able to provide for myself financially. I enjoy my work more than any other job or work I have ever done, but it needs to continue to be sustainable financially for me. If I were to get clawbacks, then my practice would not be able to financially sustain me.

I have chosen not to work with certain insurance companies because of their negative reputation with auditing and clawbacks. I would like to be able to continue accepting insurance to make mental health care accessible for more people. If I cannot feel secure in the insurance companies I work with, then I would have to consider going back to private pay only and that would be inaccessible for many Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Joy Paul, LPC, NCC