

Submitter:

Rena McGrath

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4028

My name is Rena McGrath, MA, LPC. I am a Licensed Professional Counselor, practice owner of Front Porch Counseling in Turner, Oregon, and a board member of the Western Oregon Mental Health Association (WOMHA). I am writing to urge your support for House Bill 4028, the Behavioral Health Protection Bill, and to respectfully request that the House Interim Committee on Behavioral Health schedule this bill for a hearing as soon as possible.

As a practicing clinician serving primarily rural Oregonians, I see firsthand how limited provider availability and insurance barriers disproportionately affect access to care in small and underserved communities. HB 4028 would provide meaningful protections that strengthen the behavioral health workforce and improve patient access by:

- Supporting more sustainable reimbursement practices that allow providers to remain in-network and continue serving insured Oregonians.
- Reducing administrative and contractual burdens that take time away from direct patient care.
- Helping stabilize the behavioral health workforce at a time when demand for services continues to grow across the state.

These protections are essential to maintaining access to affordable, high-quality behavioral health services, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

I greatly appreciate your consideration and leadership on behavioral health issues, and I respectfully ask for your support of HB 4028 and for timely committee action so this bill may move forward.

Thank you for your service to Oregon and for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Rena McGrath, MA, LPC

Licensed Professional Counselor & Practice Owner

Front Porch Counseling

Turner, Oregon

Board Member, Western Oregon Mental Health Association