

Submitter: Rainer Rivenburgh

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4028

Subject: Support for HB 4028 – Protecting Mental Health Providers and Patient Access

Dear Chair Pham and Members of the Behavioral Health Committeem

My name is Rainer Rivenburgh, and I am a LPC and Clinical Supervisor working in private practice in Portland, Oregon. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 4028.

This bill provides essential protection for small and independent mental health providers against increasingly aggressive and predatory insurance practices--9t is becoming a true situation of bullying.

I'd like to share a metaphor to illustrate: say you needed a new roof and the roofing contractor completed the job, then handed you an invoice and you paid the contractor. Then, a year or two later, you could decide to audit that invoice, and, because of an accidental typo on the invoice--such as the wrong word for the type of shingles installed, or type of safety equipment used--you could force the roofer to return everything you had paid them. In what world does that make any type of sense?

Therapists work so hard to make sure that their clients' mental health stabilizes and improves. The work has been completed, the services rendered -- yet insurance companies are allowed to decide--opaquely and arbitrarily--to take back the money paid for sessions held months or years in the past. It is an impossible system which drives people out of business and causes them to leave the field entirely.

The insurance company reps will tell you that this is all in the interest of protecting clients, standardizing documentation practices, preventing fraud, etc. Please do not fall for this line of thought. It's like saying the typo on the invoice caused the leaky roof.

Sincerely,
Rainer Rivenburgh LPC #6010
Portland OR