

Submitter: Brandon Huffman
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 Committee,

My name is Brandon Huffman, and I am a Licensed Professional Counselor in private practice in Eugene, Oregon. I am writing to express my clear and strong support for HB 4028.

As a small, independent mental health provider, I have seen insurance audits become more frequent, more aggressive, and increasingly disconnected from the reality of clinical work. The standards used in these audits often feel inconsistent and poorly defined, yet the consequences are severe. Even when care is ethical, medically necessary, and well-documented, providers are left vulnerable to retroactive denials and repayment demands over minor or subjective technical issues.

This environment creates ongoing financial uncertainty and significant stress. I know many therapists, myself included, who have seriously weighed the option of no longer accepting insurance simply to protect the sustainability of their practice. When clinicians are pushed toward that decision, it is patients who ultimately lose access to care.

HB 4028 addresses a real and growing imbalance of power between insurance companies and small mental health practices. It acknowledges the harm caused by unclear guidance, punitive audits, and retroactive clawbacks for services that were appropriately provided. By setting clearer expectations and reasonable protections, this bill offers a practical path forward.

Passing HB 4028 would help ensure that providers can remain in network, continue serving insured clients, and focus their time and energy on patient care rather than constant fear of financial penalty. This legislation supports both the mental health workforce and the communities that rely on it.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your consideration of HB 4028. I appreciate your commitment to protecting access to mental health services across Oregon.

Sincerely,?

Brandon Huffman, MA, LPC, NCC, CADAC-II?
Rise Above Counseling?
Eugene, Oregon