

Submitter: Maruti Gupta Hyde
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment HB 4028
or Topic:

Dear Chairman Pham and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

My name is Maruti Gupta Hyde and I am a second-year graduate student in the Clinical Mental Health counseling program at Oregon State University. I have been volunteering as a graduate student representative to the Coalition of Oregon Professional Associations for Counseling and Therapy (COPACT). Over the last three years, I have also been volunteering as crisis counselor over the 988 and other crisis support lines.

I am writing this letter in strong support for HB 4028.

It is important that fraud is detected and restricted and for that reason, I support insurance audits for behavioral health care. But insurance audits must not be used as a tactic to harass and deny rightful provider claims or recoup payment based on arbitrary or simple clerical errors or errors created when the insurers change requirements without first informing providers in a timely manner.

HB 4028 addresses several key gaps in the way insurers conduct audits that have long impacted mental health care providers and other healthcare professionals. It requires the insurers to offer clear, written guidelines regarding what constitute rightful vs. wrongful claims, and the basis for conducting audits and recoupment of payments made in the past. It allows providers to practice their profession in an ethical manner without undergoing undue financial hardship and stress and anxiety of being audited and asked to pay back past payments for frivolous reasons.

It also requires some carriers to annually report to the Department of Consumer and Business Services to ensure that there is compliance with behavioral health care parity requirements as compared to other healthcare services.

In conclusion, HB 4028 is a crucial bill that makes it easier for people in Oregon to have access to behavioral health care services and for providers to practice their profession in an ethical manner without undue threats of financial hardship. I urge the committee to

pass HB 4028 as a common-sense measure that will support providers, prevent fraud and allow the community to access services they desperately need.

Thank you for listening and supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Maruti Gupta Hyde

Graduate Student

Masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program

Oregon State University