



The Oregon Psychological Association (OPA) is a professional association comprised of psychologists and associates who advocate for psychology on local, state, and national issues affecting both the profession and those we serve.

**The Oregon Psychological Association Supports HB 4028.**

**This crucial bill will advance the goal of providing fair and reasonable guidelines to insurance companies to ensure that audits and parity steps are clear and justified, with no financial cost to our state.**

**As a means of support, please consider:**

**1. Current insurer audit practices are unpredictable and harmful**

Behavioral health clinics face inconsistent and opaque audits—often triggered by automated A.I. reviews—that potentially demand immediate repayment for coding issues that are supported by documentation and are in compliance with those standards set by the American Medical Association’s coding manuals. These practices threaten the financial stability of small, community-based clinics operating on thin margins, as they can be thousands of dollars.

**2. The bill creates fairness, transparency, and due process**

The Behavioral Health Protection Bill establishes clear documentation standards, uniform audit procedures, reasonable timelines, and opportunities to correct minor errors—ensuring accountability for insurers while protecting providers from unjust clawbacks. Insurance companies can no longer say “we don’t give guidance on coding issues” yet then severely penalize providers for coding issues.

**3. Protecting providers preserves access to care for Oregonians**

Without these safeguards, clinics may be forced to leave insurance panels or close, worsening an already critical shortage of in-network behavioral health services. Supporting this bill helps sustain Oregon’s behavioral health workforce, maintain patient-centered care, and protect access **at no cost to the state**.

**4. Protection of state citizens’ parity rights regarding behavioral health**

The Behavioral Health Protection Bill will add additional protections to Oregon's parity laws, ensuring that commercial insurance plans are in compliance and maintaining adequate access to behavioral health services.

**Thank you for your consideration.**