

Submitter: Amanda Antenucci LCSW

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4028

Support for HB 4028 – LCSW/Trauma Specialist Testimony

To: Chair Pham and Members of the Behavioral Health Committee

From: Amanda Antenucci, LCSW

Date: February 3, 2026

Dear Chair Pham and Members of the Committee,

My name is Amanda Antenucci, and I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in private practice in Portland, Oregon. I have been practicing in Oregon since 2014 and have been working in the mental health field for over 25 years, specializing in trauma treatment and Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 4028.

I have made the conscious choice to accept health insurance because I believe specialized trauma care should be accessible to everyone, not just those who can afford to pay out-of-pocket. However, the current system places an undue burden on providers like myself. We are often required to draft documentation without clear expectations from insurance providers, only to face the risk that they will later audit those notes and subjectively determine they do not meet their internal standards. The Risk to Specialized Care Trauma treatment and EMDR are highly specialized skills that are already difficult for patients to find within insurance networks. The current administrative burdens and financial risks threaten access to these specific services:

Clarity of Standards: I need direct expectations articulated by insurance payers regarding what clinical documentation must include. Operating without this guidance creates a constant fear of retroactively denied claims for the ethical and evidence-based care I have already provided.

The "Clawback" Threat: Without protection around time limitations for recoupment demands ("clawbacks"), the financial risk of staying in-network is becoming too high to justify.

Because of these risks, I currently only accept a limited number of insurances. Like many experienced specialists, I frequently consider moving to a fully cash-pay model to simplify my work and eliminate the risk of aggressive audits. If specialized providers like myself leave the network, effective trauma treatment becomes a luxury accessible only to the wealthy, rather than a resource for all Oregonians.

HB 4028 is the Solution Passage of HB 4028 would change this calculation for me. By establishing clear documentation standards and reasonable audit timeframes, this bill would provide the stability I need to:

1. Feel confident remaining an in-network provider.
2. Potentially accept more insurance clients, increasing access to EMDR and trauma therapy.

HB 4028 helps providers remain financially stable and keeps us focused on what matters most: delivering high-quality mental health care.

Thank you for your leadership and for your support of HB 4028.

Sincerely,

Amanda Antenucci, LCSW

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