

Submitter: Deb Marinos
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4028

To the chairs and committee,

I support this bill, as a LPC in Oregon, I am aware of many private practitioners who have refused to take insurance contracts. Either because of the inability to understand what is needed to comply with the record keeping for any given insurance company, or because they know of someone who was penalized for mistakes, or clerical errors, that make no difference in the case or facts of the services provided. For the vast majority of those cases, the client was served well with ethical, professional care and had good outcomes. Why is this not considered important? This random audit process that has no clear guidance for expectations ahead of time, creates fear, and less providers willing to take a gamble. This situation affects Oregonians who need to use insurance, to be unable to gain mental health services in a timely manner, due to less providers. It is also important to note that not all insurances are unclear or unfair. This bill would make it necessary for standardization of how client records need to be kept. Which will prevent unethical insurance companies just hoping to get out of paying claims.

There is also another impact, in that some of us Licensed Mental Health providers, see clients for very low fees out of compassion, but this can cause businesses to fail, or at least reduce the taxes we pay. Thank you for your consideration of this very important legislation.