

Submitter: Linda Luther-Starbird

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4028

My name is Linda Luther-Starbird, PhD, and I am a licensed senior psychologist in solo private practice in Bend, Oregon. I am writing to respectfully ask that you support HB 4028. The sheer number of clients needing to be seen during these difficult and politically turbulent times feels to me to be unprecedented. When we add issues like claw backs that prompt clients to worry about whether their insurances will be there to support them - insurance they have paid for - it adds an additional and unnecessary burden. As an example, I have a female client in her 50's who is enduring extreme stress due to two issues: whether her government job will continue, and financially supporting an adult daughter who has significant mental illness. Her insurance recently demanded payback, which resulted in her needing to stop her therapy. Who benefits from this? Not the clients we are trained to serve. Can you insist that insurances use reasonable methods in these cases such that clients can continue getting the mental health support they need?