

Submitter: AnneMarie Benjamin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4028

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care,

My name is Anne-Marie Benjamin, and I am a Licensed Professional Counselor in private practice in Portland, Oregon. In addition to seeing clients, I provide clinical supervision and consultation to Counseling Associates and Licensed Counselors in our community. I am writing to respectfully urge you to prioritize and support HB 4028.

Over the past several years, I have witnessed the increasing stress and administrative burden that insurance audits, clawbacks, and opaque medical management practices place on mental health providers. Although I personally do not accept insurance, much of my supervisory work involves helping clinicians navigate the anxiety and uncertainty associated with insurance billing.

Payments are frequently denied due to unclear or shifting criteria. Providers receive letters questioning their billing codes—such as 90837—based on “normative parameters” that are not transparently defined. Instead of focusing our consultation time on client care, we are increasingly forced to review documentation defensively to avoid potential clawbacks or audits. The fear of retroactive repayment demands has created a chilling effect, discouraging skilled clinicians from participating in insurance networks at a time when access to mental health care is already critically strained.

HB 4028 is an important step toward restoring balance and fairness in this system. Mental health providers should be spending their time caring for Oregonians—not defending themselves against unclear administrative practices. HB 4028 helps ensure that providers can focus on clinical excellence while maintaining financial stability.

Thank you for your leadership and for your attention to this important issue. I respectfully urge you to support HB 4028.

Sincerely,
Anne-Marie Benjamin, LPC
Portland, Oregon