

Submitter: Michelle Harvey
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 Michelle Harvey and I'm a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in private practice in Salem, Oregon. I specialize in Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) and treating trauma in very young children. As an IECMH provider in our current desert of early childhood mental health services, I am writing to ask that you prioritize and SUPPORT HB 4028.

The risk of an audit and subsequent clawback is at the forefront of most therapist's minds and is one of the reasons that many therapists do not accept insurance - making access to mental health services more difficult. I made the deliberate choice to panel with insurance companies (including Medicaid) because I work with young children, and I know that most families of young children do not have an extra \$600/month to spend on weekly therapy sessions. This choice also makes me feel like I have a constant financial threat lurking over my shoulder.

This bill will reduce a significant amount of my own stress and worry regarding audits by increasing transparency, limiting the amount of time that an insurer can claw back money, and giving therapists the ability to pay any owed money over a reasonable amount of time. Many of us don't just have tens of thousands of dollars sitting around in case we made a mistake in our charting from five years ago.

Audit limits increase fairness as we are held to our own timely filing to receive payment for claims - which can be anywhere between 30 days and a year. Providers cannot submit a claim two years after a date of service and expect to be paid; insurance companies should not be given an indefinite amount of time to audit and reclaim funds from a service that occurred years ago. With increased restrictions on audits and clawbacks, providers will be more inclined to panel with insurance companies, increasing mental healthcare access and quality for Oregonians.

Thank you for supporting this bill to support the mental health and wellbeing for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Michelle Harvey, LCSW, SEP, IMH-E