

Submitter: Sonja Heifetz
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4028

I am getting this testimony in at the last minute so I apologize that it will not be as well-written as I would like. I am in support of HB4028. I have been in private practice since I graduate from graduate school in 2020. I live in constant fear of my life being destroyed by a clawback as I have witnessed others in the psychological community like myself file for bankruptcy or close their clinical practice. As a new therapist in 2020 I was not properly trained to complete clinical documentation to medicaid standards. I sought hours and hours of consultation from my clinical supervisor and private consultants and trainings because I was unable to get training directly from the CCO's that I billed, although I emailed them regularly seeking and asking for support. After many years, I am still not sure if I could pass an audit and live with the constant fear of being unfairly punished for not being trained properly even though I have tirelessly sought training over the years. Private practice clinicians unfairly don't have access to the support, training, and safety net that agencies and institutional settings offer. I chose private practice because I entered the counseling field in my early 40's with a full life and family to support and could not afford to live at the wages offered by agencies. I have a highly specialized practice where I support clients with a rare disorder called PNES (psychogenic nonepileptic seizures). I am the only clinician in the state of Washington and Oregon listed on the PNES directory that treats this disorder. Because of my fear of clawbacks, I cannot treat 90% of clients who seek treatment with me because I won't except insurance anymore. I also have other unique specialties in trauma treatment that many clients seek where I must turn away clients because I don't except insurance. PLEASE PASS THIS BILL!