

Rosenberg Corey

From: Diana Oxley <dianaoxley@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 8:23 AM
To: SHS Exhibits
Subject: Support SB 860

Members of the Committee on Human Services,
I write in support of mental health services out of a wish to add my voice to the call to recognize these services on par with medical services. As a Licensed Professional Counselor new to practice I am stunned by the level of need, that is, the number of persons who reach out for therapy and the number of them who still lack sufficient insurance policies or insurance period to pay for them. The clients I see most often lack full employment because of the psychological problems they have and as a result don't have adequate insurance to support their needs. Most of my clients choose me because I offer a low sliding scale. I am retired from a former profession and not dependent on income from therapy so I can do this, but most of my colleagues are not in a position to do this. Other solutions are needed, and they involve state support of mental health services to make them more widely available via fairer compensation by insurance companies.

The LPC Board monitors therapist credentials and practice closely and enforces strict requirements. Legislators should have confidence that mental health practitioners are unusually well trained and adhere to a strict code of conduct. Above all, they should recognize that mental health services are currently not supported in a manner commensurate with the very high level of need for such services. Please lend your support to enhancing mental health service provision statewide.

Sincerely,
Diana Oxley

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