

## Rosenberg Corey

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**From:** Carol Walnum <carolwalnum@hevanet.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 13, 2017 12:33 PM  
**To:** SHS Exhibits  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 860

I am a constituent in the 97213 zip code working as a mental health therapist.

We counselors, social workers, psychologists are now seeking to be paid in parity with medical doctors for our services. We need these awful reviews of our work to stop. They are harsh; they are punitive for mental health practitioners. We our senators and representatives to stand up for enforcement of our medical parity law in Oregon please.

I am a master's level practitioner who has taken significant, additional post-graduate training and certification as a certified Jungian Analyst. In Europe, but not in Oregon, my training has PhD equivalency per the UN yet for the very difficult mental health patients I see in Oregon, I am paid far less than my peers and certainly far less than many medical doctors typically working on 15-20 minute appointment schedules per patient while for example I work a regular 50 minute patient sessions with everyone I see.

Currently as you may know, BCBS has denied payment for mental health intake sessions. No notification, no legal backing, just no payment as per some kind of internal corporate decision. Now we as providers are stuck telling and burdening a new patient with the news that they have to pay out of pocket for the first session even though they carry insurance. This is not ethical and it is certainly not parity.

Please support Senate Bill 860.

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