

Rosenberg Corey

From: Nick Dietlein <ndietlein@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 12:00 PM
To: SHS Exhibits
Subject: Support SB 860

Re: Save Mental Health / Support SB 860

Dear Oregon State Legislators,

My name is Nick Dietlein, Psy.D. and I am Licensed Clinical Psychologist who has been practicing in the State of Oregon for almost 15 years. **I'm writing to ask for your support of Senate Bill 860.**

During the past 15 years, I have seen the state of mental health treatment for clients/ patients (because of reduced access) and compensation for providers continue to erode to a very concerning level. This erosion has caused mental health providers to leave the mental health field to find other forms of income because they cannot afford to run a full time private practice.

In my role as a Psychologist, I specialize in working with a variety of psychological conditions including clients suffering from trauma and performing neuropsychological evaluations. In my pursuit of treatment for clients with complex traumas and neuropsychological conditions I have jumped through the hoops of preauthorization for an evaluation or treatment, only to later have those pre-authorizations removed by the insurance company with no explanation, making the client responsible for the cost of the evaluation or their treatment. In the past, the only solution for this abhorrent situation was to fire the insurance company and to absorb the cost, something that can be done on a limited basis.

In my role as a psychologist I'm also President of Western Oregon Mental Health Alliance (WOMHA). WOMHA is made up of licensed mental health practitioners in the Willamette Valley. WOMHA formed in 2013 as a way to deal with the inequalities between mental health providers and insurance companies and to raise the level of care for clients/patients. In my role as president of WOMHA, I have heard many mental health professionals report significant inequalities and difficulties dealing with insurance companies as they continue to reduce compensation for treatment.

Please support Senate Bill 860 to support an adequate mental health work force and to support access by consumers to mental health treatment.

Nick Dietlein, Psy.D.

Licensed Psychologist (1527)

WOMHA President