



4/2/2025

The Honorable Teresa Tanzi
Chair, Subcommittee on Human Services, House Finance Committee
State of Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for H5076: Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) Budget

Chair Tanzi and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of H5076, the Governor's FY26 proposed budget for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). FSRI supports the work of Secretary Charest and his team, and appreciates their commitment to providing access to services to ensure the health and safety of all Rhode Islanders

My name is Margaret Holland McDuff, and I am CEO of FSRI. FSRI is a behavioral health and social service organization delivering over 30 programs to support children, families and individuals across the state. FSRI has been serving Rhode Islanders for decades, including programming to support healthy child development, provide essential behavioral health services, and coordinate crisis intervention programs that help children and families thrive. As funded by EOHHS, this specifically includes FSRI's Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) serving Providence, Early Intervention (EI), Ryan White HIV/AIDS Early Intervention Case Management Services, and Children's Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS).

We thank EOHHS for their work and partnership, especially around the recent implementations of CCBHCs across Rhode Island and Children's MRSS. It is vital to ensure all Rhode Islanders have open access to behavioral health and substance use supports without barriers to care. We also ask for the following two considerations:

1. As discussed with the Secretary, I look forward to participating a public/private contingency planning team to develop a safety net plan and decision-making process to use in response to the current federal administration. When budget cuts come from the federal government in the coming months, it should be clear "what the plan is" and the public/private team leading it for the administration and the legislature. This also should include discussion around other federal sources that might still be accessible and could potentially increase and cover cuts in Medicaid.
2. According to the EOHHS statute, codified in Title 42 Chapter 7.2 of the R.I. General Laws, "EOHHS exists to improve the efficiency, coordination, and quality of state health and



human services policy, planning, budgeting, and financing.” I hope in the coming year there can be more work on coordinating and leveraging services for clients and patients between departments, which will lead to less duplication of services, improved awareness of resources, increased access across the system, and an enhanced consumer experience.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of the EOHHS budget, and please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Margaret Holland McDuff'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Margaret' being the most prominent.

Margaret Holland McDuff
CEO