

Steven Sepe

From: Jennifer Benson <jbenson@nssk12.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 9:35 AM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: Support for H7875

To: House Health & Human Services Committee
From: Jennifer Benson, School Psychologist, Narragansett Public Schools
Date: March 19, 2024 (Hearing Date)
RE: Support for H7875

I am writing to urge you to support H7875 to require private insurers to cover the services of community health workers currently billable to Medicaid. My name is Jennifer Benson, I am the school psychologist at the Narragansett Pier Middle School. Currently, students in our school are afforded access to mental healthcare through community health work via Thundermist. It is my understanding that so few students qualify for coverage of service due to private insurance that we will no longer be able to offer this service to students next year. Students who have parents with limitations, limited transportation, parents with difficulties that make it challenging for them to gain access to mental health care have been supported through the current tele-health based community health programming. I recommend that you vote for this bill which levels the playing field for children to access much needed mental health support.

Thank you for your consideration,

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Jennifer Benson
Narragansett Pier School
School Psychologist
401-792-9430 (x2, x2)