



May 9, 2024

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
Chairperson, House Committee on Health and Human Services
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Letter of Education H-8203 – AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE – ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES

Dear Chairperson Donovan:

I write on behalf of the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) to respectfully provide the following drafting suggestions for [House Bill 8203](#). As a technical matter, proposed subsections 27-18-95(a), (b), (c), (d) and (f) of R.I.G.L. § 27-18-95, as well as the corresponding proposed new subsections under R.I.G.L. §§ 27-19-87, 27-20-83, and 27-41-100, of this bill apply specifically to the Department of Health (DOH) and to emergency medical services practitioners subject to the jurisdiction of the DOH. Consequently, to enable the effective administration and enforcement of this bill, it would be appropriate to include these provisions in a title and chapter under DOH's jurisdiction and to remove these provisions from title 27, which governs insurance.

Similarly, proposed subsections (b), (c) and (g) of RIGL § 27-18-96, and the corresponding proposed new subsections under R.I.G.L. § 27-19-88, 27-20-84, and 27-41-101, of this bill apply specifically to the DOH and to emergency medical services practitioners subject to the jurisdiction of the DOH. Consequently, to enable the effective administration and enforcement of this bill, it would be appropriate to include these provisions in a title and chapter under DOH's jurisdiction and to remove these provisions from title 27, which governs insurance.

Finally, regarding proposed subsection (f) of R.I.G.L. § 27-18-96, and the corresponding proposed new subsections (f)s in R.I.G.L. §§ 27-19-88, 27-20-84, and 27-41-101, the drafters may want to consider: (1) rephrasing this subsection to state "(f) Coverage for the treatment of mental health and substance use disorders . . ." for the purpose of better aligning with the language of chapter 38.2 of title 27, which these subsections reference; and (2) providing additional clarifying language to the extent the bill is seeking to do more than confirm that coverage for the treatment of mental health and substance use disorders are subject to the provisions of chapter 38.2 of title 27. Otherwise, the inclusion of subsection (f) may be unnecessary.

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Thank you for your continued leadership and hard work on all matters related to the health of Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,



Cory B. King
Health Insurance Commissioner

CC: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House