



TIDES FAMILY SERVICES

WE NEVER GIVE UP ON A KID... NEVER!

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March 18, 2025

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
Chair, House Health and Human Services Committee
State of Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for H5432

Chair Donovan and Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

I am writing to you today in support of H5432, which would prohibit health insurance providers from requiring preauthorization for in-network mental health or substance use disorder services.

As the CEO of Tides Family Services, which has provided critical community-based child welfare, juvenile justice, and behavioral health programs to children and families across Rhode Island for over 40 years, I urge you to prioritize our state's most vulnerable children and families in this budget cycle.

Through our decades of experience working in this area, we understand the importance of immediate access to services. This bill is important in that it helps remove barriers to care, so that when an individual is ready to access treatment, they will not face administrative delays that can be detrimental to their health.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of H5432, and please feel free to contact me with any questions or follow-up.

Sincerely,

Beth A. Bixby, LICSW

CEO