



Howard Dulude  
Interim President

March 18, 2025

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

Re: Support H.5432 – Prior Authorization Reform

Dear Chairperson Donovan,

The Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) and its members **support H.5432** by Representative Tanzi, which seeks to eliminate prior authorization for in-network behavioral health services. This bill represents a critical step forward in reducing administrative burdens, improving patient access to timely care, and enhancing overall healthcare efficiency.

Eliminating prior authorization for behavioral health services **ensures timely access** to mental health and substance use treatment, **preventing conditions from worsening** and reducing the risk of emergency interventions. Delays in care often lead to avoidable hospitalizations, but removing administrative barriers **allows for continuous treatment, improving patient outcomes and lowering overall healthcare costs**. Additionally, behavioral health providers, already operating at capacity, face significant administrative burdens due to prior authorization. Reducing these bureaucratic hurdles **frees up valuable time for patient care and encourages more providers to accept insurance**, ultimately expanding access to treatment.

For these reasons HARI and its members support passage of H.5432 and appreciate your commitment to the well-being of our community and your ongoing efforts to strengthen healthcare in Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Tomasso", written over a horizontal line.

Lisa P. Tomasso  
Senior Vice President