

April 1, 2025

Representative Susan Donovan  
Chair, House Health and Human Services Committee  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: Support for H5621**

Dear Chair Donovan and Honorable Committee Members:

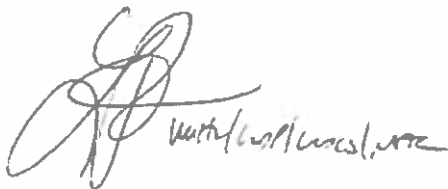
As Chief Operating Officer at VICTA and Policy Chair for the RI Association for Addiction Professionals, I am writing in strong support of H5621, which would ensure that health plans in RI cannot pay a rate that is less than the approved Medicaid rate set by EOHHS.

Last year, the RI General Assembly made a significant and positive impact on our behavioral health infrastructure by approving the first Medicaid rate increase in well over a decade. That same critical piece of legislation provides for routine reviews and concomitant increases in the Medicaid rates for home- and community-based services. Several Managed Care Organizations adjusted their reimbursement rates in alignment with this change, and we need to ensure that they continue to do so.

With over 90% of Medicaid eligible Rhode Islanders enrolled in a Managed Care plan, it is critical that reimbursement rates keep up with the burgeoning demand and cost of providing services to complex, high-risk, vulnerable individuals and families. Maintaining access to these services is essential to the overall health of our State.

I would like to thank Representative Hull, as well as his cosponsors, for proposing action that will protect the gains that we have made in the years to come. I respectfully urge the Committee to support this bill which supports our providers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Peterson', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Lisa Peterson, LMHC/LCDP/LCDS/MAC