



4/1/2025

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

Re: Support for H5621

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of H5621, which would prohibit insurance companies from paying a rate that is less than the approved Medicaid rate set by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services.

My name is Margaret Holland McDuff, and I am CEO of FSRI. FSRI is a behavioral health and social service organization with the mission "to advance equity, hope, and opportunity in our communities." FSRI has been serving Rhode Islanders for decades, including programming to support healthy child development, provide essential behavioral health services, and coordinate crisis intervention programs that help children and families thrive.

As a provider of critical behavioral health services to Rhode Islanders of all ages, the Medicaid rate set by EOHHS should be the floor. It is critical that the reimbursement rate be reasonable to cover the service. If reimbursement rates are too low, organizations like ours will face financial and staffing crises, and Rhode Islanders will not be able to access the services they need, leading to the likelihood of expensive interventions and treatments in the future.

The behavioral and physical healthcare services we invest in our population will determine the future health and well-being of our state. It is critical to pass H5621. Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of this bill, and please feel free to contact me with any questions or follow-up.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Margaret Holland McDuff'.

Margaret Holland McDuff
CEO