

Representative Susan Donovan, Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H5862

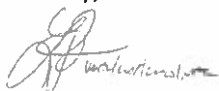
Dear Chairwoman Donovan and honorable Committee members,

As the Chief Operating Officer at VICTA, and Policy Chair for the RI Association for Addiction Professionals, I am submitting this testimony in strong support of H5862. This bill would return critical healthcare decision-making to the hands of providers and experts instead of remote arbiters of what interventions are right for an individual patient. I would like to thank the sponsor, Representative Solomon, for putting forth this legislation.

It would seem to be common sense that providers are the people who know their patients best, and who are best qualified to make determinations about the services that they need. Unfortunately, we have normalized the acceptance of third parties determining whether or not they will 'approve' of the appropriate treatment. In most other scenarios, this would be considered practicing medicine without a license, and it would be prosecuted accordingly. Yet in our "Managed" care system it is allowable for a person who does not have to have expertise or experience in the specialty they are reviewing to decide that the treating practitioner is wrong. The onus is then on the actual expert to prove that their patient needs this care.

Delaying or denying care while bureaucrats fight to keep shareholder profits high at the expense of real human lives is unconscionable, but it is also the norm in our system. I urge you to support this bill and allow providers and patients to determine appropriate treatment plans, not algorithms, profit margins, and outsourced "peer reviewers". Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Lisa Peterson, LMHC/LCDP/LCDS/MAC
Bristol