



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 H5863

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of H5863, which would require each healthcare entity or network plan to compile and report to the health insurance commissioner a summary of how the healthcare entity or network plan requires its contracted providers to submit claims for in-network outpatient behavioral health services, before January 1, 2026, and at least annually thereafter and require rates paid under those contracts for services be increased by the rate of inflation as of October 1, 2025, plus five percent (5%).

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.

Chronically low commercial reimbursement rates have contributed to the current workforce shortage in our state’s behavioral healthcare system. This has contributed to long waitlists, which can result in higher levels of more costly care. This bill would require commercial insurers to provide a one-time increase to in-network outpatient mental and behavioral healthcare reimbursement rates, which is very needed, and to report annually to the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner a summary of how its plan requires its contracted providers to submit claims for in-network outpatient behavioral health services. This will hopefully increase access to services, and improve patient outcomes.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of H5863, 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