



Representative Susan Donovan, Chair
House Health and Human Services Committee

Apr 23, 2025

Support for H-5120 – An Act Relating to Insurance – Benefit Determination and Utilization Review Act

Chair Donovan and Members of the Committee,

Rhode Island Working Families Power writes in strong support of H-5120, Rep. Potter's bill to require that health insurers not impose prior authorization requirements for any service ordered by an in-network primary care provider. Working Families Power advocates for policies that promote economic justice and allow all people to meet their basic needs and live with dignity,

Prior authorization requirements are used by insurance companies as a hurdle to prevent patients from receiving care that has been prescribed by their doctors when the cost of that care would lower companies' bottom lines. When Rhode Island residents need care, those decisions should be between them and their doctors, and they should be able to know that they are able to get the treatment prescribed by their healthcare providers without an insurance company middleman stepping in with a roadblock.

This bill would help make sure that thousands of Rhode Islanders are able to see their doctors and get the care they need without having to scale the bureaucratic barriers that keep too many residents locked out of potentially life saving care. We hope the committee will move forward with this legislation so that it can be enacted into law.

Thank you,

Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler

Progressive Governance Director
Rhode Island Working Families Power