

Chris O'Brien

From: Michael Brodeur <mbrodeur@providencebehavioral.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 3:35 PM
To: Chris O'Brien
Subject: Written Testimony for House Bill No. 7171

Hi Noah,

Thank you for this opportunity to share my voice with the growing list of healthcare providers advocating for telehealth services. I wrote a short passage below in quotes that I would like for you to submit as part of the written testimony in support of House Bill No. 7171.

Thank you,

Dr. Brodeur

"Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Dr. Michael Brodeur, and I am a licensed psychologist in Rhode Island (RI# PS01356). I'm writing to express my full support for House Bill No. 7171. As a clinical psychologist, I've witnessed firsthand the astounding influx of behavioral health issues within the past four months. I have numerous patients that remain weary of in-person clinical services due to the inherent risks of speaking in an enclosed room for a duration of forty-five minutes (typical session length). Several of my patients present with immunocompromised health conditions that pose a contraindication to in-person services. Also, many of my patients are now juggling between parenting, remote learning for their children, and remote working from home. Telehealth allows these working parents the flexibility of scheduling sessions without the added pressures of commuting to the office and/or risking their health with in-person contact. The American Psychological Association has conducted numerous studies attesting to the equal benefits of telehealth for a wide range of psychological disorders in comparison to in-person services. I can personally attest that many of my patients have thrived in telehealth treatment. Telehealth also allows me to remain safe in order to continue to provide care to my patients. As a registered voter, I am closely watching how my representatives are listening to the needs of the healthcare community in supporting telehealth services. Please heed the call of the healthcare community in passing this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Brodeur, Psy.D.
Clinical Psychologist (RI# PS01356)"