



4/11/24

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon,  
Chair, House Committee on Corporation  
State of Rhode Island General Assembly  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: Support of H8056**

Chair Solomon and Members of the House Committee on Corporations,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in strong support of H8056, which prohibits 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 Family Service of Rhode Island (FSRI). FSRI is a health and human service organization with the mission “to advance equity, hope, and opportunity in our communities.” We support children, individuals and families across the state with our 25 plus programs and services, which includes, outpatient mental health counseling, substance use counseling, Early Intervention, First Connections, wraparound family supports, and more.

FSRI was involved and supportive of the rate review legislation that was passed in 2022, and worked with the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner on the subsequent process and recommendations. It is essential that private insurance companies follow these same rates, for equity in coverage.

The health and human service sector has been facing a workforce crisis that was exacerbated by the pandemic. Waitlists for services, inadequate staffing, and high caseloads are still a reality for our sector. If we do not fully invest in these services, from both a Medicaid and commercial insurance perspective, we will be unable to meet the needs of Rhode Islanders at appropriate levels of care and will stress (our already stressed) higher levels of care through increased hospitalizations and more costly services.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important legislation and to express my support for H8056. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

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

Margaret Holland McDuff  
CEO