

Lou Mansolillo

From: Fotini Dionisopoulos <fotini@ridental.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 9:42 AM
To: House Corporations Committee
Subject: PLEASE USE THIS EMAIL (please disregard previous): House Bill 7722 from President of Rhode Island Dental Association

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Dear Chairman Solomon and Members of the House Corporations Committee:

As President of the Rhode Island Dental Association, and on behalf of our members and all patients who have dental insurance, I write in strong support of House Bill 7722.

Our primary goals should be to ensure optimal access to dental care for our patients and to promote the fair and appropriate use of dental insurance without undue limitations or restrictions placed on consumers. Patients should never be penalized—within or beyond the boundaries of the law—for choosing the dentist they trust and wish to see.

Current limitations within the dental insurance landscape create unnecessary barriers for patients seeking care. These restrictions not only interfere with patient choice, but also contribute to broader systemic challenges within our state.

I worry deeply about the future of dentistry in our beloved state. Rhode Island is already facing difficulties in attracting and retaining dental professionals. Policies that further restrict patient access or complicate reimbursement structures only exacerbate this issue. If these challenges persist, we risk a growing imbalance in the dentist-to-

patient ratio over the next 5, 10, 15, and 20 years, ultimately limiting access to timely and appropriate care for our residents.

As a pediatric dentist, I would like to offer the perspective of my specialty. If these out-of-network restrictions continue, the epidemic of dental cavities will rise significantly, affecting the overall quality of life of children and their families. Low self-esteem, missed school days, and missed workdays for parents are just a few of the adverse effects.

Looking decades ahead, we also foresee serious consequences for adult patients. Long-term, loyal insurance carriers who lose access to care may face delays in obtaining necessary dental clearance for procedures such as chemotherapy, heart surgery, or orthopedic surgery. These delays—often lasting months—are due to a lack of access to a dentist, despite having insurance that should fairly cover their care.

I personally, want to inspire and encourage our young Rhode Islanders to pursue careers in dentistry in order to care for ALL of the citizens of Rhode Island. Honestly and very tragically, the behavior and unfair practices of the insurance companies do not make this easy at all. You NEED to help us change this but supporting House Bill 7722.

House Bill 7722 represents an important step toward protecting patient choice, improving fairness in dental insurance practices, and supporting a sustainable environment for dental professionals to practice in Rhode Island. As our organization has submitted a substantial report for your review, I am available to meet with you to provide any additional information you may require.

We respectfully urge your support of this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Fotini M. Dionisopoulos, D.M.D.

President, Rhode Island Dental Association
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