



To: House Committee on Finance  
From: Care New England  
Date: May 20, 2025  
Subject: **CNE support for H 5320**

Dear Chairman Abney and members of the Committee,

Care New England (CNE) appreciates the opportunity to testify on H 5320 and we would like to thank Chairman Casey for his efforts addressing the challenges our providers and patients face in the behavioral healthcare arena.

CNE Health System is a trusted, integrated health care organization that fuels the latest advances in medical research, attracts the nation's top specialty-trained doctors, hones renowned services and innovative programs, and engages in the important discussions people need to have about their health. CNE is helping to transform the future of health care, providing a leading voice in the ongoing effort to ensure the health of the individuals and communities we serve. With over 8,000 employees throughout Rhode Island, CNE is the fourth largest employer and second largest health system in the Ocean State.

The legislative changes proposed in H 5320 are particularly beneficial for individuals with conditions such as bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, or schizotypal disorder, as it enables them to receive timely and uninterrupted access to essential medications. Because of this, **CNE is supportive of H 5320**. By removing administrative barriers, this bill aims to streamline the treatment process, allowing healthcare providers like The Providence Center and Butler Hospital to prescribe the most effective medications without delays. This approach not only improves clinical outcomes but also supports patient autonomy and continuity of care.

Enhancing access to behavioral healthcare by eliminating prior authorization and step therapy for nonpreferred anticonvulsant and antipsychotic medications is crucial because it reduces delays in treatment and ensures patients receive the most effective medication for their specific needs. These administrative barriers can interrupt continuity of care, particularly for individuals with serious mental health conditions like schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, where medication stability is essential to avoid relapse or hospitalization. By allowing providers to prescribe based on clinical judgment rather than insurance protocols, patients are more likely to experience better outcomes, improved adherence, and a higher quality of life.

We are appreciative of the opportunity to provide testimony and if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Robert Dulski, Director of Government Affairs for CNE, [RDulski@CareNE.org](mailto:RDulski@CareNE.org). Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Dulski".

Robert Dulski  
Director, Government Affairs  
Care New England



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