



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE  
John O. Pastore Center  
35 Howard Avenue, Bldg. #55  
Cranston, RI 02920

Representative Marvin L. Abney, Chair  
House Finance Committee  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

May 19, 2025

Bill No. H 5320  
By: Representatives Casey, Potter, Donovan, Speakman, McGaw, Kazarian, Dawson,  
Chippendale, Serpa and Cortvriend  
Entitled: AN ACT RELTING TO HUMAN SERVICES – MEDICAL ASSISTANCE –  
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Mental Health Advocate supports this bill, which prohibits the Rhode Island medical assistance program and its managed care organizations from requiring prior authorization or step therapy protocols for nonpreferred anticonvulsant or antipsychotic medications. This will reduce barriers to the treatment needed for people with severe mental illnesses who need antipsychotic and/or anticonvulsant medications that are necessary to stabilize and treat their illnesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan N. Clingham, Esq.  
Director  
Office of the Mental Health  
Advocate