

May 5,2026

Re: House Bill 8183 to fund disability services

Dear Members of the RI House of Representative Finance Committee,

I am writing today in support of HB 8183; I urge the Committee to pass this legislation to fund 100% of the OHIC recommended rate increase to Medicaid for community-based services. This rate review and recommendation fulfills legislation passed in 2022 to review provider funding.

This funding level was found necessary to properly fund disability services. The rate review process was put in place to address decades of inadequate funding which led to high staff turnover which negatively impacted needed support for residential and community-based care and support. Rate Reform allowed agencies providing support to keep operating and cover rising costs.

I am a parent of a 43 -year- old man with significant disabilities who resides in a group home run by Spurwink RI. He has needs that necessitate well trained staff with needed staffing ratios to allow them to properly meet his needs, including safety, as well as facilitate connection to his community, further development of skills, and promote a quality of life. The agency's ability to adequately pay and retain well-trained professional direct support workers is crucial as high turnover of staff negatively impacts the individuals receiving support.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. I urge you to support passage of HB 8183.

Yours truly,

Linda J. Armstrong