

Chris O'Brien

From: Angela E <aevans7d@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 3:46 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Please Support H8417

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Dear Chairman Abney and Members of House Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed legislation, H8417, to appropriate \$500,000 in funding for Thrive Behavioral Health, Inc. to sustain and expand the Hillsgrove Clubhouse Program. This program plays a vital role in serving more than 165 individuals across Rhode Island, providing services that promote employment, education, housing stability, and long-term recovery. These are not abstract benefits—they are tangible supports that help people build independent, stable lives within their communities.

I am particularly concerned by the recent notice from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services indicating that Thrive Behavioral Health can no longer bill the State Medicaid Program for services provided within the Hillsgrove Clubhouse Program. The absence of any alternative billing mechanism places this essential program in serious financial jeopardy and threatens to disrupt care for the individuals who rely on it.

Investing in community-based behavioral health programs like Hillsgrove is both fiscally responsible and socially beneficial. These programs reduce reliance on more expensive interventions such as hospitalization and emergency care, while significantly improving quality of life for Rhode Island residents. I personally have a brother who greatly depends on programs like this as he lives with severe and persistent mental illness.

For these reasons, I urge you to support this appropriation and ensure the continued operation and growth of the Hillsgrove Clubhouse Program.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Angela Ortiz
Rhode Island Resident