

Letter of Support

Support for H8417 – Hillsgrove Clubhouse Appropriation

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H8417, a joint resolution making an appropriation of \$500,000 to Thrive Behavioral Health, Inc. to support the Hillsgrove Clubhouse Program.

The Hillsgrove Clubhouse, operated by Thrive Behavioral Health, is a vital community-based psychiatric rehabilitation program that serves individuals living with serious mental illness across Rhode Island. As the only accredited clubhouse program of its kind in the state, Hillsgrove plays a unique and essential role in the behavioral health continuum by promoting recovery through meaningful work, peer support, and community integration.

Hillsgrove serves more than 165 individuals statewide, offering services that support employment, education, housing stability, and long-term recovery outcomes. These services not only improve quality of life for participants but also reduce reliance on more costly interventions such as emergency care and hospitalization.

Recently, the program has faced significant financial jeopardy after receiving notice that it could no longer bill Medicaid for services, without any alternative funding mechanism provided. The funding proposed in H8417 is critical to sustaining this indispensable program and ensuring continuity of care for the individuals and families who depend on it.

An investment in the Hillsgrove Clubhouse is an investment in cost-effective, recovery-oriented behavioral health care for Rhode Island residents. I respectfully urge the committee to support H8417 and approve this appropriation for FY27.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to behavioral health services in our state.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lamoureux, LCSW