

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in support of H8417, which would provide Hillsgrove House with temporary funding during its current Medicaid crisis.

As Hillsgrove House is the only Clubhouse in Rhode Island, it provides essential services, a sense of community, belonging, and support for those who are living with mental health conditions to which Hillsgrove serves. Clubhouses are a proven model that helps people build relationships, return to work and school, reduce isolation, remain connected to their communities, and help mental growth.

I strongly believe that this bill should be passed because it would help the staff and members of Hillsgrove Clubhouse grow, stay connected with friends, and not feel alone. It gives them a safe place to go so they're not staying at home; alone and isolated.

I politely encourage the Committee to support H8417, and I cannot stress enough how important this bill is. I hope that it will pass because it is one of the most important bills for this community. It will help not only Hillsgrove Clubhouse, but also yourselves as the Clubhouse gives back to your community in more ways than one.

Sincerely,

Damin Prince

Member of Crossroads Clubhouse

Hopedale, MA