

May 8, 2026

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

Atlantic Clubhouse of Quincy, Massachusetts, is writing in strong support of H8417, which would provide temporary funding to help keep Hillsgrove House open during its current Medicaid funding crisis.

Mark Maragnano, Program Director of Hillsgrove House, was one of our accreditors during our accreditation process with Clubhouse International. For those reading this who might not know, accreditation is a very important process for any and all clubhouses around the world. It shows dedication to the Clubhouse model and a strong adherence to the 37 Clubhouse standards. Following these Clubhouse standards ultimately means making a difference in the recovery journeys of those living with mental health diagnoses. Helping people return to the workforce, connecting individuals with their broader community so they are not isolated but involved citizens in their local towns and cities, building the confidence and self-esteem of individuals... This is vital work at the core of any Clubhouse.

Mark Maragnano is not only a Program Director of the only Clubhouse in Rhode Island but also serves Clubhouses around the United States if not the world by going out and evaluating clubhouse effectiveness of other clubhouses for Clubhouse International as an accreditor. During Atlantic Clubhouse's accreditation process, Mark gave valuable feedback that has helped us to grow and develop as a Clubhouse. He has given an incredible amount of guidance around how to build advisory boards, how to build a vibrant and engaging Clubhouse work day, came prepared with resources like the PAID workbook to help us establish transitional employment opportunities for our members who would like to return to work (something he himself helped develop), and has overall been a friendly connection to have not too far of a drive away from Quincy, Massachusetts.

If you lost Hillsgrove, you would not only be losing your only Clubhouse in Rhode Island, but you would also be missing out on the opportunity to have your only Clubhouse led by a well distinguished and seasoned leader in the Clubhouse space, something Rhode Island can and should be especially proud of.

Not only that but there are members of Hillsgrove who likewise have immense Clubhouse experience and offer *their* expertise to Clubhouse International and who go on trips to evaluate other Clubhouses for their effectiveness. It would be a shame if those Clubhouse members, one of which also provided invaluable and insightful feedback to Atlantic Clubhouse during our accreditation, did not have a Clubhouse themselves to call "home" in their Rhode Island community.

Clubhouses are an incredible way for whole communities of individuals to band together and help each other in their recovery journeys, especially while they are on waitlists for other programs. Members can always rely on Clubhouses to be open even while they are waitlisted elsewhere for services.

Hillsgrove is an essential resource for members to access community and find support. The loss of this resource due to a technical issue that can be resolved would truly be so sad to see. We are confident that your support would mean everything to that community.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support H8417 and provide the temporary funding needed to keep Hillsgrove House open.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Miranda Campbell & Atlantic Clubhouse  
Program Director of Atlantic Clubhouse, a Vinfen Program  
Quincy, MA 02169