

May 20, 2026

Support for Governor's Budget Amendment #16

Dear Chair Abney and members of the House Finance Committee,

As a member of RI's Long Term Care Coordinating Council and lead for our Behavioral Health Workgroup, I am urging your support for this important funding initiative.

Enabling our state to amend our 1115 Waiver to expand access to specialized behavioral health care for skilled nursing facility residents is critical to address the ever-increasing problem of lack of access to necessary care.

Creating a new level of care – enhanced behavioral health skilled nursing facility care – is a solution proposed and endorsed by multiple state plans including the Olmstead Plan, the Healthcare Transformation Plan and numerous study commissions. This will enable an alternative to lengthy, sometimes unnecessary hospitalizations and institutionalization.

Thank you for your consideration,

Christine Gadbois, DNP, RN  
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Appointed Member Governor's Commission on Aging  
Appointed Member RI Behavioral Health Council  
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cc. Representative Boylan