



OFFICE OF THE
HEALTH INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

March 19, 2024

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
Chairperson, House Committee on Health and Human Services
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Letter of Support H-7624 – AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE – INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

Dear Chairperson Donovan:

I write on behalf of the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) in support of [House Bill 7624](#). This legislation proposes an amendment to the State Mental Health Parity Statute §27-38.2-1, which would prohibit commercial health insurers in Rhode Island from requiring prior authorization for in-network mental health or substance use disorder services. There is already precedent for this policy in Rhode Island. Effective August 1, 2018, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island eliminated utilization review for all in-network behavioral health services rendered by network providers and has maintained that policy to this day.¹ The legislation also allows OHIC to promulgate rules and regulations and conduct oversight and enforcement actions necessary to implement this subsection, including the imposition of fines for violations.

Thank you for your continued leadership and hard work on all matters related to the health of Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,



Cory B. King
Acting Health Insurance Commissioner

CC: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services
Honorable Teresa A. Tanzi
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House

¹Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island. [Provider Update](#). (2018).