



RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

Honorable Jane Donovan
Chair
House Committee on Health & Human Services
Room 135
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: 24H-7624

SUPPORT

March 19, 2024

Dear Chair Donovan,

The Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS) would like to thank Representative Tanzi for introducing H 7624, An Act Relating To Insurance -- Insurance Coverage For Mental Illness And Substance Use Disorders. This bill prohibits health insurance providers from requiring preauthorization for in-network mental health or substance use disorder services.

Access to timely and effective mental health and substance use disorder services is critical for individuals struggling with these conditions. However, the requirement for preauthorization often creates unnecessary barriers to accessing care, resulting in delays or denials of treatment that can have serious consequences for patients' health and well-being.

This bill is a crucial step in ensuring that individuals have equitable access to the mental health and substance use disorder services they need without unnecessary obstacles. By prohibiting preauthorization requirements for in-network services, this legislation removes a significant barrier to care and promotes timely access to treatment.

We strongly urge you and your committee members to act favorably on this important legislation. By passing this bill, Rhode Island will take a significant step forward in improving access to mental health and substance use disorder services, ultimately promoting the well-being of our communities and reducing the stigma surrounding mental illness and addiction.

Founded in 1812, the Rhode Island Medical Society is the eighth oldest medical society in the country.

Please let us know if we can provide any additional information or if you have any questions on our testimony. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Heather Smith, MD, MPH
President