



April 1, 2025

**Statement of Support for H5204**

Dear Chairwomen Donovan and Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

As a professional dedicated to supporting the health and well-being of Rhode Island's construction workforce, I strongly support this legislation to ensure timely and necessary access to substance use disorder treatment.

In my work with individuals in the construction industry, I have seen firsthand how delays and denials in accessing medications for opioid and alcohol use disorder can have devastating consequences. Medications like methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone are essential, evidence-based treatments that save lives and support long-term recovery. Removing unnecessary utilization review barriers will prevent unnecessary suffering, reduce the risk of overdose, and allow individuals to focus on their work, health, and families without undue stress and hardship.

The construction industry faces disproportionately high rates of substance use disorder. Ensuring streamlined access to treatment is both a public health necessity and a workforce retention strategy. By passing this bill, Rhode Island can take a crucial step toward removing obstacles to care and supporting workers in their recovery.

I urge the General Assembly to pass this legislation without delay.

Sincerely,

Michael Currier, LICSW  
Recovery Director