



The Substance Use and  
Mental Health Leadership Council of RI

March 18, 2025

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan  
Chair, House Health and Human Services Committee  
State of Rhode Island General Assembly  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: Support for H5432**

Chair Donovan and Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

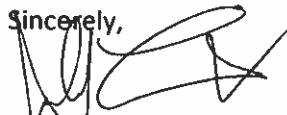
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of H5432, which would prohibit health insurance providers from requiring preauthorization for in- network mental health or substance use disorder services

My name is John J. Tassoni, Jr., and I am the President / CEO of SUMHLC. The Substance Use and Mental Leadership Council of RI and we represent 44 agencies in RI.

Through my years of experience working in this area, I along with my members understand the importance of immediate access to services. This bill is important in that it helps remove barriers to care, so that when an individual is ready to access treatment, they will not face administrative delays that can be detrimental to their health.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of H5432, and please feel free to contact me with any questions or follow-up.

Sincerely,



John J. Tassoni, Jr.  
President / CEO