

Rhode Island House of Representatives

82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support for House Bill 5863 – Increasing Reimbursement Rates for Mental Health Services

Dear Chairwoman Donovan and Members of the House Health & Human Services Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 5863, which seeks to increase reimbursement rates for mental health services in Rhode Island. As a mental health provider, I witness firsthand how inadequate reimbursement rates negatively impact access to care, recruitment of qualified professionals, and the sustainability of mental health practices throughout our state.

Low reimbursement rates have made it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain therapists in Rhode Island. Surrounding states, such as Massachusetts and Connecticut, offer significantly higher reimbursement rates, leading many clinicians to seek employment across state lines where they can earn a more sustainable income. This disparity exacerbates the existing mental health workforce shortage in Rhode Island, leaving countless individuals and families struggling to access the care they desperately need.

Additionally, these low reimbursement rates threaten the financial viability of clinics and hospitals that provide essential therapy services. The margins for mental health practices are razor-thin, making it nearly impossible to operate without financial strain. Many clinics, including my own, often lose money on therapy services due to the unsustainably low rates. If this trend continues, we risk losing even more mental health providers, further limiting access to care for those who need it most.

Mental health is just as critical as physical health, and yet, the current reimbursement structure does not reflect this reality. By passing House Bill 5863, Rhode Island has an opportunity to invest in the well-being of its residents by ensuring that mental health providers receive fair compensation for the invaluable work they do.

I urge you to support this legislation and advocate for increased reimbursement rates so that we can attract and retain qualified professionals, sustain our practices, and provide the high-quality mental health services that Rhode Islanders deserve. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warm Regards,

Abigail K. Mansfield Marcaccio, PhD  
Chief of Psychology, SCP Psychiatry, Behavioral Health & Weight and Wellness