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4/1/25

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

I am writing in support of House Bill 5863 related to reimbursement rates.

As a psychiatrist in private practice in Woonsocket, RI, I am very familiar with the challenges of providing mental health services in an underserved area. Keeping the doors open for a mental health practice is always a challenge. Increasing reimbursement rates for behavioral health services will go a long way in making sure that we can at least maintain the access that Rhode Islanders currently have. We especially need to evaluate reimbursement for clinicians with master's degrees. Payment for their services is surprisingly low, and it is not easy to retain therapists. I have been saying for a long time that the mental health crisis would improve dramatically if we started paying master's-level clinicians what they are actually worth.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to more communication in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Sammon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Carolyn Sammon, MD