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

I am submitting this letter in support of House Bill 5863, related to behavioral health reimbursement rates.

Mental health therapists in Rhode Island are woefully underpaid and the state is at risk of losing qualified professionals. I believe this is already happening as I am seeing an uptick in calls requesting my services – but I cannot take more clients despite my flat income. I, and most therapists I know, are maxed out. And of course, the chaos in the national political sphere increases the vulnerable population's needs, so it is a perfect storm.

Adjusting reimbursement rates is a necessary step to support the mental health community and prevent the exodus. I request your vote for this important measure to increase mental health services.

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth Dwyer, LMHC*