

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 address reimbursement rates for healthcare providers in Rhode Island. I am a clinical neuropsychologist at Brown University Health and an Assistant Professor in the Alpert Medical School of Brown University, though the views I express are my own and do not reflect the official positions of these institutions. In my clinical practice, I see firsthand how inadequate reimbursement rates create significant barriers to care, particularly for people with cognitive and neuropsychiatric disorders who require specialized assessment and treatment.

Neuropsychological evaluations are essential for diagnosing and managing conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, stroke, traumatic brain injury, and epilepsy. These comprehensive assessments are time-intensive and highly specialized. Low reimbursement rates in Rhode Island make it difficult to sustain services under these constraints, leading to long wait times, provider shortages, and limited access for patients.

This issue is not just a concern for providers; it directly affects Rhode Island families. I have routinely observed patients waiting six months or more for evaluations that could have provided earlier intervention, access to other necessary services, and peace of mind for themselves and their loved ones. These delays can lead to missed opportunities for treatment or unnecessary burden on caregivers. Increasing reimbursement rates is critical to ensure that Rhode Island health care organizations can remain competitive in our regional market, providing access to all Rhode Islanders.

By passing House Bill 5863, Rhode Island will take a meaningful step toward retaining qualified healthcare professionals, reducing disparities in access to care, and improving health outcomes for our residents. I strongly urge you to support this bill and advocate for fair reimbursement rates that reflect the value of specialized behavioral health care.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Korthauer".

Laura Korthauer, PhD

Clinical Neuropsychologist, Brown University Health

Assistant Professor (Research), Alpert Medical School of Brown University