

Steven Sepe

From: Haley M <haley79ri@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 4:21 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: 7187

You don't often get email from haley79ri@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Representative Susan Donovan, Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: 7187

Dear Chairwoman Donovan and honorable Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support on 7187. Medications for opioid-use disorder save lives but remain underused due to stigma, regulatory barriers, and insurance restrictions. The American Medical Association Substance Use and Pain Care Task Force recently identified prior authorization for these medications as one of their five areas of concern and is calling for the elimination of this practice in states- of which a majority have already addressed this problem.

I'm incredibly grateful to be in recovery for almost 13 years. I was prescribed buprenorphine for about 6 months at some point while I was trying to make some positive changes. That was a period of time that I recall being able to abstain from drug use and may have been one of the reasons that I was able to survive.

I've been fortunate to have had meaningful work as both a peer recovery coach and a substance use councilor. It has been amazing to see the rapid transformation of others who are able to access these life-saving medications and begin rebuilding their lives. Opioid withdrawal symptoms are absolutely unbearable and barriers, such as the one 7187 would resolve, can deter people from seeking care or adhering to treatment, even when they are motivated to ask for help.

Throughout this Epidemic, members of the General Assembly have passed laws that have surely saved the lives of countless Rhode Islanders. I urge you to continue this work and to pass 7187.

Sincerely,
Haley McKee
Providence