



To: House Committee on Health and Human Services
From: Care New England Health System
Date: March 12, 2026
Subject: **Support for H 7943 & H 7945**

Dear Chairwoman Donovan and Members of the Committee,

Care New England (CNE) Health System is a trusted, integrated health care organization that fuels the latest advances in medical research, attracts the nation's top specialty-trained doctors, features nationally recognized services and cutting-edge programs, and engages in the important discussions people need to have about their health. CNE is helping to transform the future of health care, providing a leading voice in the ongoing effort to ensure the health of the individuals and communities we serve. With over 8,000 employees throughout Rhode Island, we are the fourth-largest employer and second-largest health system in the Ocean State.

CNE would like to thank Rep. Tanzi for her advocacy in the behavioral health community over many years and applaud her for her efforts in advancing H 7943 & H 7945, which CNE supports.

H 7943 - Eliminating prior authorization requirements for in-network mental health and substance use disorder services will significantly improve timely access to care. Patients at Butler Hospital, The Providence Center, and across Rhode Island experiencing behavioral health crises often need immediate treatment, and removing administrative barriers allows clinicians to deliver care when they are most needed. This change will also reduce delays that can worsen conditions, prevent hospitalizations, and improve long-term recovery outcomes.

H 7945 - Requiring payors to rely on criteria that reflect generally accepted standards of care when determining coverage ensures that clinical decisions are guided by evidence-based medical practices rather than restrictive administrative policies. This promotes consistency, transparency, and fairness in coverage decisions, allowing providers to deliver appropriate treatment plans without unnecessary interference. Together, these provisions strengthen patient-centered care and help ensure Rhode Islanders receive the behavioral health services they need in a timely and clinically appropriate manner.

We urge the committee to pass H 7943 & H 7945. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Robert Dulski, Director of Government Affairs for CNE, RDulski@CareNE.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert Dulski
Director, Government Affairs
Care New England