



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE
John O. Pastore Center
35 Howard Avenue, Bldg. #55
Cranston, RI 02920

Representative Susan R. Donovan, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

March 12, 2026

Re: 2026 – H 7946
By: Representatives Tanzi, Kislak, McGaw, Alzate, Spears, Speakman, Donovan, Cruz, Steward and Hull
Entitled: AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE – THE PROTECT MENTAL HEALTH ACT

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

The Office of the Mental Health Advocate (OMHA) is an independent state agency charged with protecting the civil and liberty interests and advocating for the treatment rights of individuals living with serious mental illness. OMHA strongly supports this bill, which would codify federal parity standards and ensure individuals living with mental illness have equal access to mental health care the same as other medical care. This legislation is all the more important considering the very real possibility of federal parity rollbacks.

All Rhode Islanders deserve the same coverage for mental health care as for other medical care. It is for these reasons that OMHA supports the passage of H 7946.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Megan N. Clingham
Megan N. Clingham, Esq.
Director
Office of the Mental Health
Advocate