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Chairperson Donovan and members of the House Health and Human Services committee,

My name is Dayna Gladstein, and I am the President and CEO of Newport Mental Health. I am submitting testimony regarding HB7142, the *Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics Accountability and Oversight Act*. While our organization appreciates the General Assembly's continued commitment to strengthening oversight, and the function of CCBHC's as the safety net in the behavioral health system, we have some concerns about the process being taken to implement these changes presented here.

On the positive side, Newport Mental Health supports the establishment of a joint legislative oversight committee as it represents meaningful steps toward sustained engagement and accountability in the implementation and performance of CCBHCs. Legislative involvement can play a valuable role in ensuring that programs like ours meet their intended goals and serve Rhode Islanders effectively. They also allow legislators a better view of why these services remain critical in the fabric of behavioral health care in Rhode Island, at a time when that knowledge is crucial to the ongoing work legislators are doing.

At the same time, we offer a key concern regarding the reporting requirements outlined in the legislation. While transparency and accountability are essential, many of the proposed financial and performance reporting elements are already required through other existing reporting mechanisms. CCBHCs currently submit extensive data to state and federal entities, including performance metrics, financial disclosures, and quality outcomes. All things that should already be shared among the many broader agencies.

As drafted, the legislation risks creating duplicative reporting obligations that may place additional administrative burden on providers. This duplication could divert limited resources away from the main objective of a CCBHC, serving its community.

We respectfully encourage consideration of aligning any new reporting requirements with existing frameworks, leveraging current data collection systems, and minimizing redundancy wherever possible. Streamlining reporting expectations would help preserve the intent of transparency while avoiding unnecessary administrative strain on providers.

In closing, we support the General Assembly's goal of ensuring strong oversight and accountability for CCBHCs and appreciate the thoughtful attention to behavioral health system performance. With adjustments to reduce repeat reporting, this legislation can more effectively balance oversight with operational efficiency and service delivery.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna Gladstein,

LICSW President & CEO



Newport Mental Health