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

My name is Dayna Gladstein, LICSW, and I am the President and CEO of Newport Mental Health in Middletown, RI. I would like to include my written testimony in support of HB7346 (as well as its companion Senate bill, SB2108) which would prohibit insurance companies from paying a rate that is less than the approved Medicaid rate set by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS).

HB7346 establishes a threshold or a “floor” for reimbursement, prohibiting insurance companies from paying healthcare providers less than the Medicaid-approved rate. This is a crucial step in maintaining a stable and equitable system in Rhode Island that does not unduly target organizations supporting communities with the greatest need.

Historically, reimbursement rates below Medicaid levels create unsustainable environments for many providers, particularly community health centers like Newport Mental Health and other CCBHCs who serve a high proportion of low-income and vulnerable patients. When insurers reimburse providers below what’s considered adequate by state Medicaid programs, it forces organizations to operate at a loss, leading to financial strain. Over time, this undermines the ability of these not-for-profit providers to continue delivering essential care at a time when access to care is more important than ever, particularly in underserved and rural areas.

Without this legislation, there is a real risk that powerful corporate interests will continue to leverage the healthcare system to the detriment of Rhode Island’s most vulnerable populations. Healthcare providers should not be forced to accept unsustainably low rates that jeopardize their ability to care for Medicaid patients or the broader public.

In setting the Medicaid rate as the minimum standard, this legislation helps level the playing field. It makes sure that insurers cannot undercut basic reimbursement expectations that reflect state-defined adequacy standards. And by doing so, the bill promotes fair competition and protects the viability of community-based care systems.

By passing this bill, Rhode Island joins other states in putting patients and community well-being first. It is a forward-thinking, responsible approach to preserving both the integrity of nonprofit healthcare institutions and the financial protection that consumers deserve.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to support HB7346 and recommend its passage to the full House.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna Gladstein,

LICSW President & CEO



Newport Mental Health