



The Substance Use and
Mental Health Leadership Council of RI

March 24, 2026

Subject: Support Behavioral Health Rate Floor bills: **H7346**

Dear Chairwomen Donovan,

I, John J. Tassoni, Jr. President/ CEO of The Substance Use and Mental Health Leadership Council of RI, I am writing to respectfully urge your support for the behavioral health rate floor legislation. **H7346**. We represent 46 agencies in the state of RI.

This bill would ensure that behavioral health services are reimbursed at a rate no lower than Medicaid. It requires all third-party payers—commercial, private, and public—to meet this minimum standard.

Importantly, this legislation does **not impact the state budget** and applies only to behavioral health services.

Establishing a rate floor is critical to ensuring stability in behavioral health care. Currently, providers are often reimbursed below Medicaid rates, creating financial strain and contributing to workforce shortages.

As the need for behavioral health services continues to grow, this legislation will help ensure providers can sustain and expand access to care for those who need it most.

I respectfully ask for your support of this important bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John J. Tassoni, Jr

President / CEO