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RHODE ISLAND  
Developmental Disabilities Council  
*Charting a New Course*

**TESTIMONY on H5200  
AN ACT  
MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE STATE FOR THE  
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024  
Article 9**

Chair Abney and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

The Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council supports the update and improvement to Medicaid Home and Community Based Services, particularly the implementation and funding of person centered planning.

We recommend additional language is added to support the needs of individuals when they are in a hospital setting.

Without the additional language, when a person with a developmental disability enters a hospital, their staff cannot be paid to continue to support them. Many people have additional needs beyond what the hospital can provide. Direct support professionals provide communication, behavioral, and other support that is non medical in nature. Some people with developmental disabilities cannot access their health care without their staff, this could lead to potential civil rights violations.

Recommended language would be similar to:

**The Secretary is authorized and directed to request an 1115 waiver to allow people receiving Home and Community Based Services to receive and utilize Medicaid funds for personal care, communication, behavioral, and other direct support needed beyond typical hospital care when in an acute hospital setting.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at any time  
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