

24 March 2026

Subject: Support Behavioral Health Rate Floor bills: H7346

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Dear Chairperson and members of the Committee.

I, Toni Almeida-Russell MS, LADC-1, LCDP, GFS, CCTP, and I am writing to respectfully urge your support for the behavioral health rate of floor legislation, H7346.

I have been working with individuals with substance use and mental health issues for the better part of 20 years.

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 floor rate 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,

Toni Almeida-Russell 

MS, LADC-1, LCDP, GFS, CCTP

Ellie Mental Health

1526 Atwood Ave #104

Johnston, RI 02919

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