

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND



**Department of Corrections**

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The Honorable Melissa A. Murray  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

April 9, 2026

**Re: S2109 – Relating to Insurance -- Benefit Determination and Utilization Review Act**

Dear Chairperson Murray:

This evening the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services will consider Senate Bill #2109. This legislation would prohibit health care insurers from requiring or conducting utilization review for medications used in the treatment of alcohol or opioid use disorder, including Methadone, Buprenorphine, or Naltrexone and medications approved for the mitigation of opioid withdrawal symptoms. The Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) supports this legislation.

The incarcerated population faces a higher risk of overdose than most other vulnerable populations. For this reason, RIDOC screens every person in its custody for opioid use disorder upon intake and offers three forms of medication for opioid use disorder --Buprenorphine, Methadone and extended-release Naltrexone-- in conjunction with counseling. Ensuring continuity of treatment upon release is critical to reducing the risk of overdose and likelihood of recidivism.

By eliminating insurer review requirements for these medications, this legislation reduces administrative barriers to care, supports uninterrupted treatment, and improves outcomes for individuals reentering the community. This is a practical step the State of Rhode Island can take to reduce relapse and support successful reentry while also supporting access to necessary--and in many cases lifesaving-- treatment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Wayne T. Salisbury Jr.  
Director

cc: Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
The Honorable Lori Urso  
Kristen Silvia, Director of Legislation and Deputy Chief of Staff

