



March 24, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Murray
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
State of Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for S2467 - An Act Relating to Insurance- Insurance Coverage for Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorders

Dear Chair Murray and the members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of S2467, which prohibits health insurers from requiring prior authorization for in-network inpatient and in-network outpatient mental health or substance use disorder services.

My name is Benjamin Weiner, and I am the Chief Operating Officer at Family Service of Rhode Island (FSRI). FSRI is a leading Rhode Island nonprofit provider of behavioral health, educational, and social services. Additionally, we are a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC).

As a provider of behavioral health services to children and adults, we recognize a growing need in our community for accessible and immediate services. Requiring prior authorization for behavioral health services can be a barrier to care, which in the most acute circumstances, can have devastating impacts. Given the acute stressors in our community, we should work to limit as many barriers to behavioral healthcare as possible.

Families are often confused and struggle to navigate the health insurance landscape. Any hurdle to accessing necessary services can discourage those most in need from seeking the care that could assist them. Removing barriers and confusing insurance processes will improve the timeliness and accessibility of these vital services.

We strongly support Senate Bill S2467, and we encourage its passage this legislative session.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Weiner
Chief Operating Officer
Family Service of Rhode Island