



State of Rhode Island
Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos

March 24, 2026

Senator Melissa Murray
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
82 Smith St, Senate Lounge
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Letter of Support for S2467: An Act Relating To Insurance -- Insurance Coverage For Mental Illness And Substance Use Disorders

Dear Senator Britto:

I write to you in support of S2467: An Act Relating To Insurance -- Insurance Coverage For Mental Illness And Substance Use Disorders. This bill prohibits health insurance providers from requiring preauthorization for in-network mental health or substance use disorder services.

Eliminating prior authorizations for select mental health coverage will help ensure that people in need of treatment get the care they need on a timeline that can help improve outcomes. Prior authorizations have been associated with increased medication discontinuation and subsequent changes in health service use. When a patient experiencing mental health concerns has to wait for prior authorization, it makes them less likely to continue with their care. Furthermore, at a time when our state is experiencing a shortage in medical professionals and patients find themselves waiting longer for care, requiring mental health professionals to spend their time seeking prior authorization further slows down care.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote this bill favorably out of committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabina Matos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sabina Matos
Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor
CC: Senator Linda Ujifusa