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Rhode Island General Assembly, State Senate  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
(Submitted electronically via [Slegislation@rilegislature.gov](mailto:Slegislation@rilegislature.gov))

Re: Support for SB2467 and SB2564

Dear Chairperson Murray and Members of the Committee:

Please accept the Rhode Island Health Center Association's letter of **support** for **Senate Bills** 2467 and 2564, which help to ensure equitable access to behavioral health care for all Rhode Islanders.

Rhode Island's eight Community Health Centers (CHCs) provide medical, dental, and behavioral health care to over 220,000 individuals in the state, regardless of their ability to pay. CHCs recognize the growing need for timely access to mental health services. In 2024, health centers provided over 138,000 behavioral health visits, including treatment for substance use disorder. Reducing barriers to care is essential for patients seeking behavioral health care, including eliminating prior authorization and ensuring fair standards of care.

SB2467 would eliminate prior authorization for in-network mental health or substance use disorder services, increase patient access to timely services, alleviate the administrative burden on clinicians that contributes to burnout, reduce hospital and emergency department visits, and improve patient outcomes.

SB2564 aims to ensure that patients can access medically necessary mental health and substance use disorder services that are prescribed and that should be covered under their healthcare plans. The bill reinforces the use of transparent, high-quality criteria developed by national clinician organizations for coverage decisions and requires insurers to clearly demonstrate how they applied the appropriate clinical criteria when denying care.

We thank the sponsors of the legislation for their commitment to ensuring behavioral health access for all Rhode Islanders and ask you to pass SB2467 and SB2564.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

*M Campbell*

Melissa Campbell  
Policy Manager

The Rhode Island Health Center Association supports:  
Blackstone Valley Community Health Care Inc. ~ Comprehensive Community Action Program  
East Bay Community Action Program ~ Providence Community Health Centers  
Thundermist Health Center ~ Tri-County Community Action Agency  
WellOne Primary Medical and Dental Care ~ Wood River Health