

The Honorable Chairwoman Murray
Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Rhode Island Senate
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support for S2564 and S2467

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Members of the Committee,

Horizon Healthcare Partners respectfully urges your support for S2467 and S2564, two critical bills to improve access to behavioral health care in Rhode Island. Our organization represents six Rhode Island-based behavioral health entities and we see firsthand the urgent need for a coordinated, accessible, and sustainable mental health treatment.

Too many Rhode Islanders face delays and barriers when seeking mental health and substance use treatment. Prior authorization requirements and inconsistent insurance standards often prevent individuals from receiving timely, appropriate care—especially during moments of crisis.

S2467 removes prior authorization requirements for in-network behavioral health services, allowing patients to access care when they need it most. Mental health crises cannot wait, and eliminating these delays will improve outcomes and reduce strain on emergency systems.

S2564 ensures that insurance coverage decisions are based on generally accepted, evidence-based standards of care. This will reduce arbitrary denials and help ensure that treatment decisions are guided by clinical need rather than administrative processes.

Together, these bills will reduce barriers to care, support providers, and strengthen parity between behavioral and physical health services. Rhode Island has the opportunity to take a meaningful step toward a more accessible and responsive behavioral health system. I urge you to support S2467 and S2564.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ryan Pickering
Director of Communications
Horizon Healthcare Partners