



State of Rhode Island
Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos

March 24, 2026

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

RE: SUPPORT for S 3061- RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS
INSURANCE POLICIES

Dear Chair Murray:

As Lieutenant Governor and Chair of the Long-Term Care Coordinating Council, I am writing to express my full support for Senate Bill 3061. This legislation addresses a critical bottleneck in our healthcare continuum that far too often leaves our seniors and most vulnerable residents waiting in hospital beds when they should be receiving specialized recovery care.

For many older adults, the first week following a hospital stay is the most critical period for successful rehabilitation. Delays caused by insurance "prior authorization" processes can lead to functional decline and increased stress for families.

S 3061 offers a common-sense solution. The determination of medical necessity should be in the hands of the treating healthcare providers who know the patient's functional needs best. A seven-day window of coverage without preauthorization will ensure that seniors can move immediately to the rehabilitative or skilled nursing environment their doctors recommend.

No Rhode Islander should have their recovery delayed by administrative hurdles. By passing S 3061, we can ensure that older adults transition smoothly to the next stage of their care, improving health outcomes and making our entire healthcare system more efficient.

I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend passage of this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Sabina Matos
Lieutenant Governor
State of Rhode Island
CC: Senator Brian Thompson