



March 24, 2026

The Honorable Victoria Gu
Chair, Senate Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies Committee
State of Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for S2197: Relating to Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals--Oversight of Artificial Intelligence Technology in Mental Health Care Act

Dear Chair Gu and the members of the Senate Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of S2197, which would establish regulations regarding the use of artificial intelligence in mental healthcare treatments. Passage of this bill is critical to uphold the basic rules of HIPAA, and to protect the confidentiality, security, availability and integrity of all client information when using AI technology.

My name is Jessica Crowe and I am VP of Administration at FSRI. FSRI is a behavioral health and social service organization delivering over 30 programs to support children, families and individuals across the state. FSRI is committed to protect a client's right to privacy of their Protected Health Information and Electronic Protected Health Information. FSRI understands that there are benefits in the use of AI; however, we believe that in order to effectively assess that the advantages outweigh the risks, it is imperative to have a full understanding of the AI tool or system.

FSRI believes it is harmful to use AI to make independent therapeutic decisions, directly interact with clients in any form of therapeutic communication, generate therapeutic recommendations or treatment plans, or detect emotions or mental states. Using AI under these circumstances poses ethical concerns and an over-dependence of AI to guide clinical treatment that can result in errant decision-making and harmful outcomes in client care.

We fully support the implementation of regulations regarding the use of AI in mental healthcare treatments to ensure all clients are properly informed of the details and the specific purpose for the use of AI in their treatment. It would be a violation to client rights if this information was not provided, and if the client or the client's legally authorized representative did not provide consent to the use of artificial intelligence.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of S2197, and please feel free to contact me with any questions or follow-up.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessica Crowe' in a cursive script.

Jessica Crowe
VP of Administration
Family Service of Rhode Island
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