

March 5, 2025

RE: In Support of House Bill 5076, Article 8, Section 8

Chairman Abney, Vice Chairs Slater and Marszalkowski and Members of the House Finance Committee:

Primary care for children and their parents is a critical resource to ensure the well-being and safety and stability of families. Pediatricians are often the front line in recognizing challenges and making critical referrals to other systems. Our primary care system is overwhelmed and primary care providers are critically needed.

The Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families, a member of the OHIC Social and Human Services Review Advisory Committee, strongly supports the inclusion of primary care within the scope of rate review through OHIC to ensure periodic updating of critical primary care rates. We share the concern and recommendations of RIPIN and other advocates, however, that primary care have its own separate review that is separate from critical Social and Human Services programs, and includes additional analyses such as:

- Using an “all-payer” lens, allowing understanding of the different roles played by Medicaid, commercial insurance, and Medicare;
- Leveraging the States authority in regulating commercial insurance, in addition to its role in financing Medicaid;
- Analyzing and making recommendations not just about fee-for-service reimbursement levels, but also about alternative payment methodologies; and
- Including the FQHCs which are a critical provider system for families served by RICCF members

Finally, we believe that the primary care rate review should be alternated with the social and human services reviews such that they are not competing for critical financial resources.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Tanja Kubas Meyer
Executive Director
Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families