



February 12, 2024

House Committee on Health and Human Services
Rhode Island State House
HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov

Re: Testimony SUPPORTING House Bill 7091, safeguarding in state law the Affordable Care Act's protection that assures that people will not suddenly lose health coverage as a result of an expensive health event.

Dear Chair Donovan and Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of House Bill 7091.

Healthcare is a human right, but in the current national political climate the healthcare rights guaranteed to Americans by the Affordable Care Act are in peril. H7091 simply codifies elements of that law into state law so that Rhode Islanders will continue to be able to receive the care they need without fear of financial decimation and loss of coverage as a result of expensive care for an illness or injury.

We supported it and have benefitted from it at the federal level (*The US Department of Health and Human Services estimated that 374,000 Rhode Islanders (including 89,000 children) benefit from the annual/lifetime limits prohibition*), now we must protect it at the state level lest a capricious federal legislature takes the nation back to the dark pre-ACA days. That is why I urge you to please support HB7091.

Thank you for your time and attention, and for all of your work on behalf of all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Gerard,
ABC-RI