

Testimony in Support of H 5863, H 5120, H 5172 – An Act Relating to Insurance
House Committee on Health & Human Services

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The Economic Progress Institute strongly supports Rep Tanzi’s H 5863, Rep. Potter’s H 5120, and Rep. Donovan’s H 5172, which would collectively explore reducing administrative burdens to accessing healthcare via study and reform of prior authorization requirements.

All Rhode Islanders deserve access to affordable comprehensive healthcare. Unfortunately, prior authorization requirements often cause physician burnout, delays in patient care, worse patient outcomes, or cause patients to abandon treatment altogether. Prior authorizations also create an administrative burden for healthcare professionals that takes time and resources away from patient care. Removing barriers to care will improve health outcomes and reduce the harm and expense of delayed or abandoned care that often results in hospitalizations that could have been prevented.

Rep. Tanzi’s H 5863 requires each healthcare entity/network plan to compile/report to the health insurance commissioner a summary of how the healthcare entity/network plan requires its contracted providers to submit claims for in-network outpatient behavioral health service. **Rep. Potter’s H 5120** would prevent insurers from using prior authorization requirements for any service ordered by an in-network primary care provider. This would reduce burnout for primary care providers, which is critical given Rhode Island’s shortage of primary care providers. Finally, **Rep. Donovan’s H 5172** would promote transparency and accountability in the use of artificial intelligence by health insurers to manage coverage and claims.

H 5863, H 5120, H 5172 would collectively make it easier for Rhode Islanders to timely access the lifesaving healthcare services they need. We strongly urge passage of these bills.