

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Rhode Island Chapter

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American Academy of Pediatrics
Rhode Island Chapter
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Date: April 1, 2025

Re: Support for HB5255

Chairwoman Donovan and members of the committee,

I am writing on the behalf of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (RIAAP) in support of House Bill 5255, which directs the Office of the Healthcare Insurance Commissioner to add primary care providers to its comprehensive rate review as of September 1st, 2025.

Pediatric primary care providers in Rhode Island are in the midst of a workforce crisis which is driven in large part by lower Medicaid payments that we receive compared to our colleagues in neighboring states. A primary care rate review would allow us to recruit new primary care pediatric providers to our state to avoid further shortages that would affect the quality of care that we are able to provide to our children.

In Rhode Island, we currently have 250 pediatric providers, primarily physicians. Based on a survey conducted by the RIAAP in 2024, we expect to lose 70 of these providers, 27% of our workforce, to retirement over the next five years. As we are currently recruiting only an average of 4 new providers to Rhode Island per year, we expect a net loss of 20%, or up to 50 providers by 2030. We simply do not have the capacity to care for the children of our state unless we find ways to **retain** some of our existing workforce, **recruit** providers from other states, and **develop** the next generation of pediatricians here in Rhode Island.

I urge you to support H5255 to move up the timeline on the governor's proposed rate review to ensure that the children of our state have appropriate medical care both now, and into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Fox".

Gregory Fox, MD, FAAP

Advocacy Chair

Past President

Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics