



April 1, 2025

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan  
Chairperson, House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Letter regarding H-5621 – AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE – ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES

Dear Chairperson Donovan:

I write on behalf of the State of Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) regarding [House Bill 5621](#). OHIC understands the intent of this legislation is to require that commercial health insurers reimburse providers at rates not less than the Medicaid fee-for-service fee schedule rates set by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. However, the sections of existing law that the bill seeks to amend are narrowly applicable to a particular subset of commercial health insurers, namely an *"insurance company organized as a stock or mutual corporation which merges or consolidates with, acquires ownership or control or possession of twenty percent (20%) or greater of the operating assets of, or otherwise acquires control of a non-profit hospital service corporation organized under chapter 19 of this title, a non-profit medical service corporation organized under chapter 20 of this title or a health maintenance organization organized under chapter 41 of this title."* These sections of law also pertain specifically to commercial health insurance "premiums" – i.e., the term "rate" in these sections is used to refer to premiums as opposed to provider reimbursements. If the intent of this law is to set standards for commercial health insurance reimbursement rates and not premiums, the bill as written will be narrowly applicable and may cause confusion and enforcement challenges. Moreover, given the grammatical construction of the existing law, the amended language has the unintentional result of materially altering the current prohibition set forth in 27-41-27.2(1).

Thank you for your continued leadership and hard work on all matters related to the health of Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

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[www.ohic.ri.gov](http://www.ohic.ri.gov) • 1511 Pontiac Avenue • Building 69-1 • Cranston, RI 02920 • 401.462.9517



Cory B. King  
Health Insurance Commissioner

CC: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Honorable Raymond A. Hull  
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House