



April 1, 2025

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan, Chairwoman
House Health and Human Services Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H.5119, An Act Relating to Insurance – Benefit Determination and Utilization Review Act
H.5256, An Act Relating to Insurance – Accident and Sickness Insurance Policies – Equal
Pay for Healthcare Providers
H.5621, An Act Relating to Insurance – Accident and Sickness Insurance Policies
H.5623, An Act Relating to Insurance – Accident and Sickness Insurance Policies
H.5624, An Act Relating to Insurance – Autism Spectrum Disorders
H.5628, An Act Relating to Insurance – Accident and Sickness Insurance Policies
H.5862, An Act Relating to Insurance – Benefit Determination and Utilization Review Act

Dear Chairwoman Donovan,

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition are writing to express our concerns regarding the above-referenced bills that would place restrictions on insurer cost containment initiatives and dictate reimbursement rates paid to providers.

For the past several years, the Coalition has expressed concerns on bills such as these because they place restrictions on the interactions between healthcare providers and health insurers that might lead to increased costs on our state's healthcare system. As representatives of businesses across our state, we are concerned as these costs are disproportionately borne by the employer community, their employees as well as Rhode Islanders who purchase coverage through the individual market. Often these are the health insurance purchasers least able to afford the premium increases.

Affordability is a significant concern for Rhode Island small employers. An analysis of National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) data by the Rhode Island Business Group on Health, showed the Rhode Island small employer market has seen a 53 percent drop in covered lives from 2012 to 2022. A recent analysis of the Rhode Island health insurance market by Oliver Wyman conducted for the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) showed significant decreases in membership in both the large and small group fully insured markets. The Rhode Island Business Coalition represents 50 industries and 6,280 businesses that employ 231,200 people throughout Rhode Island.

since 2020. The large group market experienced the largest overall decrease of 18.4% while small group saw an 11.1% during this period.

This session, there are numerous bills that would add new health insurance benefit mandates, increase commercial reimbursement rates, and change the administrative processes of health insurers and providers. We believe these issues should be reviewed by the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner. The legislature has tasked OHIC with studying methods to improve the administration of the state's health care system to drive affordability.

The affordability of health insurance is a significant concern for Rhode Island employers. We ask that the General Assembly take additional time to ensure a robust analysis of these bills to ensure they improve the healthcare system and address rising costs.

Sincerely,

Associated Builders and Contractors – Rhode Island

East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce

Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce

Propane Gas Association of New England

Rhode Island Business Group on Health

Rhode Island Manufacturers Association

Rhode Island Staffing Association

Small Business Economic Summit Regulations Subcommittee

cc. House Health and Human Services Committee members