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House Health and Human Services Rhode Island State House 82 Smith Street Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support for House Bill 5621 - Fair Reimbursement for Healthcare Providers

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 5621, which seeks to prohibit insurance companies from reimbursing healthcare providers at rates lower than the approved Medicaid rate established by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). This bill is crucial to ensuring fair and sustainable compensation for healthcare providers, particularly those who serve our most vulnerable populations.

Currently, many providers face reimbursement rates from private insurers that are below Medicaid's established rates. This practice undermines the financial stability of providers and creates barriers to accessing quality healthcare services. If enacted, HB 5621 will help level the playing field and ensure that insurers are held accountable for providing fair compensation, thereby strengthening Rhode Island's healthcare system.

Fair reimbursement rates are essential to maintaining a robust network of healthcare providers. Without them, many physicians, specialists, and community health organizations may be forced to limit services, decline certain insurance plans, or even close their practices. This would disproportionately affect low-income individuals, elderly patients, and those with chronic conditions who already face difficulties in obtaining timely and necessary medical care.

By supporting HB 5621, you will help safeguard the financial viability of healthcare providers and promote a more equitable healthcare landscape in Rhode Island. I respectfully urge you and your colleagues to vote in favor of this bill and advocate for its passage.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you would like to discuss this issue further. I appreciate your leadership and commitment to improving healthcare access for all Rhode Islanders.

Jessica Fortier-Goss Acadia Healthcare