



April 1, 2025

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
Chair, House Committee on Health and Human Services
Via: HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov

Re: H6119 - An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government -- The Rhode Island Health Care Reform Act of 2004 -- Health Insurance Oversight

Dear Chairwoman Donovan and Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

The Rhode Island Health Center Association supports House Bill 6119.

HB6119 goes beyond solely including the analysis of primary care rates in OHIC's current authority found in §42-14.5-3(t) to "undertake a comprehensive review of all social and human service programs having a contract with or licensed by the state or any subdivision of," EOHHS and its agencies, inclusive of the Medicaid program.

HB6119 includes primary care paid for by all insurers and does not limit the analysis to Medicaid. It expands the definition of primary care payment to include payments resulting from shared savings and/or incentive programs. The bill recognizes that the primary care models that are paid for today may not be the primary care Rhode Islanders need, so it seeks to understand primary care payment adequacy in light of evidence-based best practice models. Lastly, the bill accelerates the development of the report so that we are able to utilize the findings as soon as possible.

We also support the explicit inclusion of federally qualified health centers or community health centers in the analysis. Rhode Island's community health centers serve 1 in 5 Rhode Islanders. Any analysis of primary care investment would be incomplete without the community health centers.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Elena Nicolella

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The Rhode Island Health Center Association members include:
Blackstone Valley Community Health Care Inc. ~ Comprehensive Community Action Program
East Bay Community Action Program ~ Providence Community Health Centers
Thundermist Health Center ~ Tri-County Community Action Agency
WellOne Primary Medical and Dental Care ~ Wood River Health