

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Rhode Island Chapter

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Rhode Island Chapter
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Date: April 1, 2025

Re: Support for HB6119

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 6119, which outlines a process and outlines an advisory committee for a comprehensive review of rates and payment structure to support primary care in Rhode Island.

As outlined in previous testimony (H5255), pediatric primary care providers in Rhode Island are in the midst of a workforce crisis which is driven in large part by lower payments that we receive compared to our colleagues in neighboring states. In order for us to adequately care for our children, we need adequate funds to support our staff, pay our fixed costs, and recruit physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants to replace the expected 70 pediatric primary care providers that plan to retire in the next five years.

Representative Fogarty's bill proposes the kind of comprehensive look at primary care that could not only solve some of our short term financial struggles, but would set up an advisory committee of key stakeholders that could guide the course of primary care payment for years to come.

I urge you to support H6119 to give primary care payments the comprehensive review that they need 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