



April 1, 2025

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

Re: H.6119, An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – The Rhode Island Health Care Reform Act of 2004 – Health Insurance Oversight

Dear Chairwoman Donovan,

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition are writing in support of House Bill 6119 that would task the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) to study the primary care system in the state. We thank Representative Fogarty for introducing this legislation.

In its 2024 Annual Report titled *Health Care Spending and Quality in Rhode Island*, the first recommendation of the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) is to make targeted investments in provider capacity. In its recommendation OHIC states, *“Rhode Island will not meet the cost growth target over the long run without maximizing opportunities to treat patients in the most appropriate, lowest-cost setting, emphasizing primary care and community-based providers.”*

OHIC recognizes the importance of investing in the primary care system to assist the state in meeting its healthcare costs targets. H.6119 requires OHIC to study the overall primary care system and report to the General Assembly every two years with recommendations on investments and initiatives in primary care providers.

The affordability of health insurance is a significant concern for Rhode Island employers. A strong primary care system ensures that patients have access to preventative care in a more cost-effective setting. House Bill 6119 provides the necessary focus and ongoing recommendations from OHIC needed to build and maintain a strong primary care infrastructure in our state.

Thank you for your consideration of our position on H.6119 and we ask for the Committee’s support.

The Rhode Island Business Coalition represents 50 industries and 6,280 businesses that employ 231,200 people throughout Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

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