



SEIUHealthcare®
United for Quality Care

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Testimony in Support of H-5634 – Protecting Access to 340B Drug Discounts for Federally Qualified Health Centers

Chair Donovan and Honorable Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of SEIU 1199NE, which represents over 7,000 healthcare and service workers across Rhode Island—including 70% of the workforce at our state’s Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)—we write in strong support of **H-5634**.

FQHCs serve as the front door to care for over **150,000 Medicaid recipients**, including thousands of children, low-income families, and seniors. Our members provide that care. But the foundation is cracking beneath them.

Last year, **one of Providence Community Health Centers’ clinics was forced to close**, and just this month, **Anchor Medical Associates announced that it will shut down all its locations by June**, affecting more than **25,000 patients**—including thousands of children. This follows years of warning signs and underinvestment, particularly in the form of unreimbursed care and eroded federal support through programs like 340B.

H-5634 addresses one key part of the problem by preventing pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and insurers from discriminating against clinics that participate in the 340B drug pricing program. For FQHCs, the savings generated through 340B are not about profits—they’re about survival. These funds are meant to be reinvested into patient care, staffing, and essential services that underserved communities rely on.

Rhode Island’s healthcare system is in crisis. As Attorney General Neronha recently stated, we are in a **“true state of distress.”** Unless the General Assembly takes bold action—including fully funding the 340B program and passing **H-5634**—we will see **more clinic closures, massive layoffs, and tens of thousands more Rhode Islanders losing access to primary care.**

This is not hypothetical. It’s already happening.

We urge the committee to support **H-5634** and help prevent the collapse of our community health infrastructure.

Respectfully,

Alex Moore
Political Director, SEIU 1199NE