

Chris O'Brien

From: Nicole Swanson <NicoleSw@thundermisthealth.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 10:23 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: RI H6046 and RI H5634

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

My name is Nicole Swanson, and I am employed as an LICSW at Thundermist Health Center in West Warwick. I am also a constituent of District 32 in North Kingstown. I am writing today to urge your committee to please pass RI H6046 (CHC Rates) and RI H5634 (Protect 340b) out of your committee. This bill would allow RI to become more competitive with neighboring states when hiring and retaining medical providers across all professions. As a clinician who serves a high caseload of patients all across RI, I have seen the impact that our FQHC continues to make in the lives of Rhode Islanders. After hearing the recent news of Anchor Medical Associates deciding to close their doors to 25,000 patients, I am concerned for the future of primary care in our state. Thundermist serves over 62,000 patients every year and we provide a dynamic range of services for our patients, such as, behavioral health, nurse care managers, case management, primary care, obstetrics and gynecology, dental, pediatric primary care and behavioral health, psychiatry, harm-reduction substance use treatment, diagnostic imaging, community health teams who provide in-home and community behavioral health, housing support, and case management.

It would be a crisis for our state if Thundermist were to close its doors. Given the recent attacks at the Federal level on Medicaid and Medicare, we need to be pro-active at the state level to make sure the taxpayers in this state continue to have quality healthcare for the foreseeable future.

Again, I am urging your committee to please pass RI H6046 and RIH5634.

Thank you for your attention.

Best,

Nicole Swanson, LICSW
Thundermist Health Center
West Warwick, RI