



October 29, 2020

Governor Gina Raimondo
Senate President Dominic Ruggerio,
House Speaker Nicholas Mattiello

The Protect Our Healthcare Coalition is comprised of leading organizations that all are committed to ensuring that our state provides high quality, affordable, comprehensive, and cost-effective care to all residents. We have written to you about health-related proposals included in the Governor's proposed 2021 budget and pending legislation, including enshrining ACA consumer protections into state law.

Today we write regarding the need to ensure that revenue enhancements are included in the still-pending FY 2021 budget. We understand the dilemma posed by the ongoing lack of Federal action to enact additional pandemic relief, and the precarious state of the budget for this year and for FY 2022. We strongly urge you to enact the following two proposals:

- **Add one new tax bracket for the top 1% of earners** – increasing the rate from 5.99% to 8.99% on adjusted gross income above \$475,000. This proposal is projected to bring \$128 million in new revenue. According to a survey conducted for the Revenue for Rhode Island Coalition, 67% of Rhode Islanders support this proposal.
- **Freeze or slow down the car tax phase out** at FY2020 levels. For FY2020, the reimbursement by the state to cities and towns surpassed \$80 million, and if implemented according to schedule, the cost to the state will pass \$100 million in FY2021.

We believe taking action now on revenue is an act for equity and justice and is essential to preserving access to quality health care and to addressing social determinants of health including housing and basic needs.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters.

Linda Katz, Chairperson (Policy Director, Economic Progress Institute)
Karen Malcolm, Coordinator

cc:, House Finance Chair Marvin Abney, Senate Finance Chair William Conley

Protect Our Healthcare Coalition partners include: Economic Progress Institute, Mental Health Association RI, RI NOW, RI Parent Information Network, NAACP Providence Branch, United Way of Rhode Island, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, SEIU Rhode Island Council, Foster Forward, RI Coalition for the Homeless, Rhode Island Working Families Party, Mental Health Recovery Coalition of Rhode Island, Senior Agenda Coalition, RI Community Food Bank, U.S. Pain Foundation, Inc., RI Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty, Substance Use & Mental Health Leadership Council, Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families, HousingWorks RI, Rhode Island Organizing Project (RIOP), Thundermist Health Center