

June 7, 2025

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and Madam Vice Chair,

My name is Dr. John Miskovsky, and I have operated a primary care medical office, Heritage Medical Associates, in Rhode Island since 2006. I am submitting this testimony in support of H 6353, The Primary Care Preservation Act. I have my primary office across the street from the former Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island in Pawtucket. I have seen many physicians in Pawtucket and the surrounding communities leave practice via relocation or retirement over the past 10 years. Most of these physicians have not been replaced. Many small physician practices have closed entirely; others (usually larger groups) remain in business but with fewer providers. Physicians entering practice are not willing to sign on to join a practice where salaries are less than nearby states and reimbursement rates are not keeping pace with inflation.

I continually receive requests for new patient appointments from patients seeking new primary care physicians. I wish that I could accommodate everyone, but my practice is at a near breaking point with respect to its financial viability as insurance reimbursements have not kept pace with the rate of inflation for medical practice expenses. Administrative expenses have only further skyrocketed in the past 3 years. Medicaid reimbursement for visits no longer is sufficient to meet basic practice expenses for the time spent on each visit. Medicare reimbursement for visits, with cuts allowed to go into effect by Congress as of January 1, 2025, is also insufficient for a practice, even one that is extremely efficient, to remain financially viable over the long term.

Governor McKee does not need to look at quarterly financial reports from my practice to assess the magnitude of the health care funding crisis in Rhode Island or to develop a solution (although he is welcome to see them and see how little revenue I generate for the time I spend with patients.) Physician practices in Rhode Island need enhanced streams of revenue if they are to stay in business and provide the care that is needed to our patients.

The Primary Care Preservation Act would allow small practices like mine to charge a monthly administrative fee to our patients. This additional revenue stream would significantly impact the bottom line of my practice, allowing me to continue to serve the community where I have been practicing for the past 18 years. I did not choose medicine as a career for its financial rewards, but I cannot continue to operate my medical practice at a loss or make such draconian cuts in staff and other expenses such that I am not able to provide a level of care for my patients in which I can take pride. Without creative solutions such as the one outlined in this bill, I do not foresee a future for independent medical practices in this state.

I am happy to expand further upon this testimony in the future. Thank you for your consideration of this piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

John Miskovsky, MD

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