

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

I am here today to discuss H 6353 THE PRIMARY CARE PRESERVATION ACT.

I am uniquely qualified to discuss this proposal as the recently retired Medical Director and CEO of Anchor Medical Associates.

My name is Nathan Beraha. I practiced medicine as a pediatrician and pediatric cardiologist in Rhode Island for almost forty years, first with Rhode Island Group Health Associates, then with Harvard Health. In 2000, I was one of the founding physicians of Anchor and served as CEO for twenty-five years.

During the last two and half decades, Anchor has been recognized for our superior quality performance and financial stability.

However, in the eight months prior to my retirement at the end of March 2025, we worked unsuccessfully to overcome the financial issues associated with attracting and retaining physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants to replace our providers as providers were enticed to more lucrative opportunities elsewhere or retired.

THE PRIMARY CARE PRESERVATION ACT suggests a payment of \$10 per patient per month. Were such a payment applied across our entire practice, this would have been enough for Anchor to stay open. A modestly increased payment (perhaps \$15 per patient per month) would have generated funds to recruit and retain new primary care providers in an incredibly competitive market.

I hope this gives you an idea of the magnitude of the financial issues in primary care and helps explain the importance of this bill.