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Rhode Island Works Best When We Say UNION YES.

June 5, 2025

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
Chairman, House Committee on Corporations
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Testimony in Opposition to HB6353 - An Act Relating to Business and Professions – The Primary Care Preservation Act

Dear Chair Solomon and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony. On behalf of the more than 80,000 members and 275 affiliates of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO, we respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to House Bill 6353.

Across Rhode Island, approximately twenty-five percent of medical insurance recipients are covered by plans that have been collectively bargained by our affiliated unions. These hard-won benefits are not merely line items in a contract; they are a vital part of the health and economic security of Rhode Island families. HB6353 threatens that security by undermining the cost-containment measures that keep health coverage affordable and accessible.

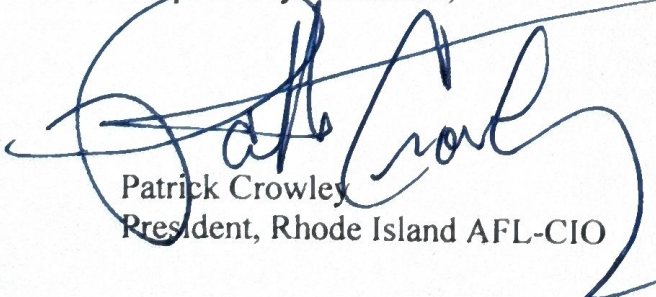
By authorizing a physician practice to charge a practice support contribution of \$120 per patient on an annual basis, this bill could open the flood gates to an unquantifiable cost that we believe will be borne by our members and their families. It is unclear whether a member who sees multiple physicians throughout the year will be charged individually by each provider.

For example, imagine a family of four with two children: both parents see a primary care physician (\$120x2 = \$240), both children see a pediatrician (\$120x2 = \$240), each family member sees a dermatologist (\$120x4 = \$480), and one child sees an allergist (\$120x1 = \$120). This amounts to an additional \$1,080 per year for a family to access some of their basic annual care providers.

This legislation would drive up out-of-pocket costs for Rhode Islanders, many of whom are already struggling with rising health care expenses and the increasing cost of living. For some, these additional costs may make health coverage unaffordable altogether or may result in more Rhode Islanders forgoing care, leading to more extensive health complications in the future and widening disparities in access to care.

We urge this committee to oppose House Bill 6353 and protect Rhode Island family's access to primary care services. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 401-751-7100 should you have any questions or require additional information.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick Crowley
President, Rhode Island AFL-CIO

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