

THE RHODE ISLAND PROTECT OUR HEALTHCARE ACT OF 2026

H-8137 (Donovan), S-2811 (DiPalma)








Starting in 2026, many Rhode Islanders are losing their health insurance

- 33,000 losing Medicaid because of federal cuts
- 20,000 losing coverage through HealthSource RI
- Many others being priced out of coverage
- Would more than double the state's existing uninsured population

Care for the uninsured is limited

Uninsured Rhode Islanders can receive treatment at hospitals, Community Health Centers, the RI Free Clinic, and Clínica Esperanza, but capacity is limited and cannot accommodate double the patients without extra resources.

Gaps in care for the uninsured include:

-  Prescription drugs
-  Imaging services (MRIs, X-rays, CT scans)
-  Durable medical equipment
-  Routine care from specialist providers
-  Scheduled surgical services

THE STATE WILL SPEND \$26.6 MILLION LESS IN FY27 AND \$54.8 MILLION LESS IN FY28 ON CARE FOR RHODE ISLANDERS BECAUSE OF LOWER MEDICAID CASELOADS

- This is money the State already appropriated towards care for low-income Rhode Islanders without other coverage, and should stay dedicated to that purpose
- The **Protect Our Healthcare Act** calls on Rhode Island to maintain this investment, and provide additional funding (for a total of \$53.2 million in FY27, \$109.6 million in FY28 and thereafter) to **keep the most vulnerable Rhode Islanders healthy**

THE PROTECT OUR HEALTHCARE ACT WOULD

- ✓ **Create a health care program for the uninsured**, modeled on similar initiatives in New York, Massachusetts, and elsewhere, to provide essential healthcare services and address gaps in the current system.
- ✓ **Build on funding** for the existing sources of care for the uninsured, so they can absorb new patients
- ✓ **Reduce unnecessary emergency room admissions** for uninsured patients with nowhere else to get care
- ✓ **Prevent a health care crisis** if hospitals, community health centers, and free clinics close because of financial distress caused by increased uncompensated care