



STATE of RHODE ISLAND
Executive Department
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
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Legislative Impact Statement

To: Chairperson Representative Robert Abney
From: Elisabeth Hubbard, Executive Secretary
Re: 25 House 5523 AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -
HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

The Governor's Commission on Disabilities' Legislation Committee has developed a Legislative Impact Statement on the bill listed below. The Commission would be pleased to present testimony to the committee. Please contact me (462-0110) for additional information.

The Commission finds this bill beneficial.

This bill would ensure that a child under the age of 3 who is found eligible for Medicaid will maintain their eligibility until age 3.

Many necessary medical screenings and appointments are done before a child turns 3. These are necessary to identify and sometimes even prevent disabilities. The identification allows for interventions at the child's earliest stage of development, when it will have the most impact. 36.9 % of children in Rhode Island are covered by Medicaid. <https://kidshealthcarereport.ccf.georgetown.edu/states/rhode-island/>

Medicaid is also a crucial source of funding for early intervention services, which provide most of the services that children receive to help if they have an identified delay or impairment. By maintaining enrollment, we would ensure that there would be no interruption in payment for these services. Currently, parents are required to regularly recertify which requires time, paperwork and sometimes travel. This is an administrative burden on anyone, but especially families with very young children.

By ensuring continued healthcare coverage, we can ensure uninterrupted care for children's wellness visits, vaccines, screenings as well as any needed intervention. This in turn leads to healthier children and eventually healthier adults.