

To: The House Finance Committee  
From: Barrington Pediatric Associates  
Date: April 30, 2025  
Re: Support for H-5988

To members of the House Finance Committee:

We are a group of community pediatricians in Barrington at Barrington Pediatric Associates writing this letter in support of Bill H-5988. We are an independently owned small business, employing members of our community in a variety of roles to support the function of a pediatric practice.

We are concerned about the ongoing shortage of pediatricians in the state. Reimbursements in Rhode Island are significantly lower than in neighboring states, resulting in lower physician salaries. This makes it challenging to recruit and retain providers in RI.

This pediatric workforce shortage adversely impacts the health of children that live in RI. Many primary care pediatric practices are unable to accommodate new patients, including our own. Families that move to the state and local families whose pediatricians have retired often struggle to find a pediatrician to care for their children. We routinely hear from families that finding a pediatrician is a significant challenge. This has been exacerbated by the recent closure of a local pediatric group. Additionally, our young adults are often unable to find an adult provider for transfer of care once they have aged out of our practice.

Pediatric subspecialty shortages are also negatively impacting the healthcare of RI children. Our patients are experiencing unacceptable delays in both diagnosis and care for treatment of chronic medical diagnoses such as developmental delay (ie autism spectrum disorder), epilepsy, psychiatric disorders, food allergies, and recurrent ear infections/hearing loss due to inadequate availability. This is both a challenge for families and detrimental to children's health.

Increasing medicaid reimbursement rates will make Rhode Island a more competitive place to work. Increasing the size of the pediatric workforce will improve the health of the youngest patients in the state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barrington Pediatrics:

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