

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Aaron <aaron.brug@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 9:45 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of H5988

**Categories:** Yellow category, Red category

Dear Chairman Abney and the Finance Committee, 

As a Rhode Island resident and pediatrician, I'm writing in support of H5988 because I'm deeply concerned that the children of Rhode Island will not have doctors to care for them in the near future. I completed my pediatric residency training at Hasbro Children's Hospital, the state's only pediatric residency program, in 2022. Now, just three short years later, only two of the sixteen pediatricians in my graduating class (counting myself) still practice in Rhode Island. At the same time, Rhode Island pediatricians retire at record rates. For example, two of the six pediatricians I work with are retiring this summer and the organization I work for can't recruit pediatricians to replace them. The inability to recruit new physicians, including pediatricians, was a primary reason Anchor Medical is closing, leaving 23,000 Rhode Islanders, many of them kids, without a doctor. This means asthma is going untreated, developmental disorders are not being identified, children with chronic health problems do not have a medical home. Under current circumstances this issue is only going to get worse and I don't know who is going to care for our children and grandchildren.

Rhode Island families are already experiencing the impacts of the pediatric workforce crisis. Clinics statewide are closed to new patients and parents struggling to find a doctor for their children. Parents drive across the state to my office because they couldn't find a doctor closer to home. H5988 has the potential to address the disparity in medicaid reimbursement rates that is driving this problem. I encourage you to consider the health of the children of your constituents and support H5988.

Sincerely,  
Aaron M. Brug MD