

Chad P. Nevola, MD, FAAP, Inc.

120 Dudley St. Ste. 105
Providence, RI, 02905
(401) 273-9555 F: (401) 861-4943

April 30th, 2025

Re: Bill H5988

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a pediatrician in solo practice in Providence for over 20 years. I am writing in regard to a crisis in both primary care and in particular pediatrics in Rhode Island. Briefly as I can, pediatricians in Rhode Island are becoming scarce due to a number of factors: attrition of providers due to retirement, and an inability for private practice owners to hire new providers directly as a result of decades of poor payments. There have been instances of pediatric practices closing in the past several years for financial reasons. As you are likely aware, Anchor Medical has closed, leaving over 25,000 patients without providers. Moreover, it is very easy for potential hires to accept a job over the border in Massachusetts and Connecticut and obtain higher salaries.

Due in part to the above factors, my practice census has increased almost 40% in the past year – and I am still financially in an unfavorable position to hire any provider help. This has and will continue to result in less efficient care for children, more families unable to find new pediatricians, and indirectly can also affect families' desire to move to Rhode Island if they know they will be unable to find health care.

I humbly request that the legislature consider this, along with the pending verbal testimony of my very hard-working colleagues, and elect to improve payments for pediatricians as soon as possible in order to assist us with the present statewide health care crisis.

Sincerely,

Chad P. Nevola, MD, FAAP
Clin. Ast. Professor, Pediatrics,
Brown University