

Written Testimony
Rhode Island General Assembly

To: RI House Finance Committee

From: Maayan Leroy-Melamed, MD, MPH

Date: April 30, 2025

Re: Support for H-5988, Health Care for Children and Pregnant Women

Dear Legislators,

I am a pediatrician and adolescent medicine specialist in Providence. I practice primary care and see referrals for adolescent health concerns including eating disorders, gender dysphoria, and menstrual health. I am a member of the RI chapter of the AAP and support its priorities to fund health care for children and pregnant women. I moved to RI 2.5 years ago to join an excellent team of providers in a system that understands the psychosocial determinants of health and takes excellent care of its patients.

I love my job despite difficulties with access to care and poor reimbursement rates. My salary is lower than in other states. For subspecialty care, we often have several months' wait. Because my care is largely preventative and I do not prescribe expensive medications like chemotherapy, I am often pushed to see more patients in less time to ensure my time fully maximizes reimbursement. By supporting this bill, we can make sure that health care providers are able to provide the best care to their patients.

For my own children who live in Providence, I had difficulty finding primary care, waits are often long, and when they have been referred to a specialist often have to wait 6 months or longer. By supporting this bill, we can attract more pediatricians to Rhode Island and lower these wait times.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Maayan Leroy-Melamed, MD, MPH

Adolescent Medicine