

4/29/2025

To the House Finance Committee:

We write this letter in support of Bill H5988.

We are a group of community pediatricians in East Greenwich at Ocean State Pediatrics.

We are concerned that pediatric patients in Rhode Island are unable to establish care with a primary care pediatrician given workforce shortages and have concerns that this issue will continue to worsen over time as we lose pediatricians to neighboring states with higher reimbursement rates.

Our patients face difficulty in accessing care at a variety of pediatric subspecialists for issues such as chronic ear infections, seizures, developmental delay and autism spectrum disorder. This is stressful for patients and families and can cause delays in medical care.

Thank you for your consideration,

Elizabeth Butler, MD

Danielle Cirillo, MD

Lisa Haines, MD

Michele Mathieu, MD

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Howard Silversmith, MD

Christine Willis, MD

Deborah Zinck, MD