



SEIUHealthcare®
United for Quality Care

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Subject: Testimony in Support of H-6046 – Stabilizing Community Health Centers Through Medicaid Reimbursement

Chair Abney and Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee,

On behalf of SEIU 1199NE, which represents more than 7,000 healthcare and service workers across Rhode Island—including the majority of workers at the state’s Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)—we submit this letter in strong support of **H-6046**.

Our FQHC members provide essential healthcare services to approximately **150,000 Rhode Islanders**, including children, seniors, and low-income families. They deliver care that keeps families healthy, prevents hospitalizations, and ensures communities across our state have access to primary care.

Today, that access is at risk. Without a \$10 million investment in Medicaid reimbursement, community health centers will be forced to cut services, lay off staff, and close sites. For patients, this would mean losing their trusted providers and being pushed into already overcrowded emergency rooms for basic medical needs. Delays in care will lead to worse health outcomes and higher healthcare costs across the board.

The state’s investment through **H-6046** would not only stabilize these health centers—it would also trigger a **\$19 million federal match**. That’s nearly double the investment back into Rhode Island’s healthcare system. Few opportunities offer such a strong return.

The collapse of primary care access is not a distant threat—it is happening now. One Providence Community Health Center location closed last year. Anchor Medical Associates recently announced the closure of all its practices, displacing more than **25,000 patients**. Without action, more facilities will follow.

H-6046 is a smart and necessary step to keep clinics open, protect healthcare jobs, and preserve access for the working families, seniors, and children who rely on them every day.

On behalf of our members and the patients they proudly care for, we urge the committee to support **H-6046** and invest in keeping healthcare local, accessible, and strong for Rhode Islanders.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Alex Moore

Political Director, SEIU 1199NE