

Chris O'Brien

From: Aaron <aaron.brug@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 10:25 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Testimony in Support of H6046

Categories: Red category, Yellow category

Dear Chairman Abney and the Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island resident and primary care physician, I encourage you to support H6046 because I am deeply concerned about our state's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs see patients regardless of their insurance status and operate on sliding scales that accommodate families regardless of their income. As a result, FQHCs function as a safety net for our communities including over 200,000 Rhode Island residents. They provide primary care, mental health services, social services assistance, women's healthcare and so much more.

Lagging adjustments in medicaid reimbursement rates, however, have put FQHCs in a dangerous position. In the last year alone, our state's largest FQHC organizations, Thundermist Health Centers and Providence Community Health Centers (PCHC) have each announced financial crises and workforce reductions that have threatened the critical services they provide. Medicaid only covers 80–85% of what it actually costs health centers to provide care. That's not sustainable and puts critical services at further risk.

HB6046 ensures a fair minimum reimbursement rate that either reflects each health center's actual costs or is based on a statewide median — whichever is lower.

This will help keep our health centers open and strong, so they can keep serving all of us — especially the most vulnerable Rhode Islanders. I strongly encourage you to consider the health of your constituents and support H6046.

Sincerely,
Aaron M. Brug MD