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May 20, 2025

**Subject: Testimony in Support of H-5996 – Rhode Island Individual Market Affordability Act of 2025**

Chair Abney and Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee,

On behalf of SEIU 1199NE, representing 7,000 frontline healthcare and service workers across Rhode Island, I write in strong support of **H-5996**, the Rhode Island Individual Market Affordability Act of 2025.

Our members are the nurses, home care providers, CNAs, and support staff who care for patients every day—and they see firsthand how unaffordable health insurance keeps too many Rhode Islanders from getting the care they need. The communities our members serve include low- and moderate-income individuals who don't qualify for Medicaid but still struggle with premiums, deductibles, and out-of-pocket costs.

Many of our members' patients—especially the uninsured and underinsured—delay care, skip medications, or end up in the emergency room because they simply cannot afford health coverage. H-5996 would help ease that burden by reducing costs for people enrolled through HealthSource RI. It's a smart investment that will improve health outcomes, prevent medical debt, and reduce uncompensated care in our hospitals and clinics.

We urge you to support H-5996 to help build a healthier, more equitable Rhode Island for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Alex Moore

Political Director, SEIU 1199NE