



ProtectHealthRI.org

■ April 8, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chair, House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House, 82 Smith Street, Providence RI 02903

Re: **Support for House Bill 8191 – An Act Relating to Taxation – Personal Income Tax**

Dear Chair Abney and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Protect Our Healthcare Coalition is a group of leading Rhode Island non-profit organizations and consumer groups with a goal to protect, improve, and expand equitable access to quality, person-centered, affordable health care for all. The Coalition **supports House Bill 8191**, which would allow the Division of Taxation to share information with HealthSource RI (HSRI) about tax filers who paid a penalty for not having health insurance. This information would help Rhode Islanders who did not enroll in health insurance but are eligible for more affordable health insurance.

To encourage health insurance enrollment, The Affordable Care Act (ACA) included an individual mandate for health insurance. Those who were eligible for coverage but did not enroll in health insurance were subject to a financial penalty on their income taxes. Although many lower-income households are exempt from the penalty, many lower-income households are paying significant penalties that cost them more than a health insurance plan through HSRI.

As many households know, health insurance is complicated and confusing, especially with changing eligibility, tax credit requirements, healthcare providers, and healthcare needs. Sharing this information between the Division of Taxation and HSRI would enable households to better understand their options for affordable healthcare and make more informed decisions. This bill would also allow HSRI to better understand who is paying the penalty and the barriers to health insurance enrollment, and thus, this bill could inform future marketing and policy decisions around the marketplace.

The Coalition recommends that the Committee pass HB 8191 without a sunset date so that these information-sharing efforts can continue in a robust way.

Thank you,

Alexandra Steinberg
Coordinator, Protect Our Healthcare Coalition

Protect Our Healthcare Coalition partners include: Economic Progress Institute, RIPIN, Mental Health Association RI, RI Health Center Association, Latino Policy Institute, United Way of Rhode Island, Senior Agenda Coalition RI, RI Medical Society, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, SEIU Rhode Island Council, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Blood Cancer United, RI Coalition for the Homeless, Rhode Island Working Families Party, Mental Health Recovery Coalition, RI Community Food Bank, RI Psychological Association, Substance Use & Mental Health Leadership Council, Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families, HousingWorks RI, Rhode Island Organizing Project (RIOP), National Association of Social Workers RI Chapter, The Womxn Project, Advocates for Better Care
