

February 13, 2024

Re: Opposition to HB 7299

Dear Chairperson Donovan and House Health and Human Services Committee,

Rhode Island's chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians opposes House Bill 7299. This bill would mandate insurance coverage for naturopathic services. Naturopathy is an adjunct to medical care at times but should not have mandated health insurance coverage.

Health insurance is already far too expensive, and this mandate would increase the costs for all Rhode Islanders and further strain our crumbling health care.

Medicine is grounded in providing scientifically proven health care and health insurance coverage should cover this. Alternative therapies such as naturopathy, homeopathy and chiropractic care are not scientifically proven, and health insurance should not have mandates to cover these services. When health insurers are mandated to cover alternative therapies, it takes resources away from proven medical care and increases insurance rates in our state.

Currently, health insurance companies offer plans covering alternative therapies, but they should not be mandated to cover them.

We should be saving our precious healthcare dollars on proven, effective therapy. We are in a healthcare crisis in our state, and this bill would make it worse.

Sincerely,



Joseph Lauro, MD
RI ACEP President



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