



May 9, 2021

The Honorable Susan Donovan  
Chair, House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903  
c/o [HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov)

**RE: H 8072 – An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – The Rhode Island Healthcare Reform Act**

Dear Chair Donovan and Committee Members:

WB Community Health is a non-profit self-insurance purchasing collaborative providing healthcare to more than 5,000 employees. The employees we represent are employed by Rhode Island municipalities and school districts and as such funded by local tax dollars. Our primary objective is to ensure access to health and dental care for our members' employees at the lowest and most transparent cost of care for the employers and the taxpayers within their communities.

On behalf of WB, and the employees and municipalities/schools we represent, I am writing to you to **oppose** H-8072 for the reasons that follow:

- Raising the reimbursement rates for providers equal to the average of those in Connecticut in Massachusetts would have a devastating impact on the affordability and accessibility of health insurance for our organization's members and add further pressure to local budgets as they grapple with decreasing funding and increased expenditure demands in nearly every aspect of their operations.
- The Health Insurance Commissioner, who would be responsible for the implementation of this new mandate, has come out firmly opposed this legislation. In his letter to the Senate, he warns that these bills would undermine Rhode Island's efforts to control health care costs and improve quality.
- As currently drafted, this bill also revokes the regulations that have constrained the price of commercial health insurance premiums. Taking guardrails off in this manner will, without question, lead to considerable future increases for years to come.

While we respect and appreciate the continued dedication to Rhode Island's healthcare and the continual review and reform, this bill will have devastating financial effects on organizations throughout Rhode Island. On behalf of the communities WB represents, the taxpayers that fund them, and the employees who procure coverage through us, I strongly oppose this proposed legislation.

Should you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sarah E. Mangiarelli'.

Sarah E. Mangiarelli, Executive Director

