

Steven Sepe

From: Dinusha Dietrich <ddietrich@smithpeds.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 2:28 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: support bill number 2024-H 8072

Importance: High

To whom it may concern,

I have been in practice as a general pediatrician in Rhode Island since 2002. I am the sole owner of Smithfield Pediatrics and am affiliated with Rhode Island Primary Care Physicians Corporation.

I am writing in support of bill number 2024-H 8072

I have been unable to recruit any new physicians to join my practice since my partner retired in 2021. I have also been unable to recruit any mid-levels as I cannot afford to pay rates that are competitive with the local hospitals.

Rhode Island has been rated as one of the worst places to practice medicine. Our payments are not in line with our neighbors in Massachusetts or Connecticut. We need payment parity so that we can be competitive in our efforts to recruit and retain new clinicians.

Many pediatricians in RI are reaching retirement age or choosing early retirement due to burn-out and high administrative burdens in the context of sub-par reimbursement for decades. There are no new practitioners coming in to take over their panels. There is a workforce crisis in the making.

I strongly urge you all to pass this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Dinusha W. Dietrich, MD, FAAP

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