## Steven Sepe

**From:** Roman Klufas <klufas@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2026 4:45 AM
**To:** House Health and Human Services Committee
**Subject:** Support for House Bill 7941

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Dear Chairperson and Members of the House Health & Human Services Committee,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 7941. Independent primary care practices are the backbone of healthcare in Rhode Island, yet they operate under significant financial strain. Our state consistently ranks among the lowest in physician reimbursement nationally, making it difficult to recruit and retain providers. Delayed and inconsistent insurer payments further destabilize practices already operating on thin margins. Establishing clear, enforceable timelines for payment is a necessary step to help sustain these practices and preserve access to care.

Rhode Island's primary care workforce is under increasing pressure, with a growing shortage of providers and an aging physician population. Recent practice closures and system instability highlight how fragile access to care has become. Nationally, primary care shortages are worsening, but Rhode Island is disproportionately affected due to its unfavorable reimbursement environment. Without targeted reforms that improve financial stability, these trends will continue to accelerate.

House Bill 7941 addresses a critical and fixable issue: delayed payment. Requiring timely reimbursement and enforcing compliance will improve cash flow, reduce administrative burden, and allow physicians to focus on patient care. Supporting private practices in this way is essential to maintaining access, continuity, and quality of care across Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Roman Klufas, MD