



May 5, 2026

Subject: SEIU 1199NE Position in Support of S-2255 – RI Individual Market Affordability Program

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Honorable Members of the Senate Health & Human Services Committee:

On behalf of SEIU 1199NE, representing approximately 7,500 healthcare and social service workers across Rhode Island, we write in support of S-2255.

Our members are seeing more patients struggle to maintain health coverage as costs increase. When coverage becomes unaffordable, patients delay care, skip medications, and wait until their conditions worsen before seeking treatment.

This shows up in the workplace as more preventable complications and more patients entering the system in crisis. It also increases pressure on healthcare workers who are already managing high patient loads and complex care needs.

S-2255 addresses this problem by replacing expired federal premium assistance with a state affordability program. Maintaining access to coverage helps ensure patients can receive care earlier and more consistently, rather than relying on emergency or acute care.

Without this kind of intervention, the state will face higher costs over time as more uninsured patients with more advanced conditions rely on emergency rooms and other high-cost settings for care.

We urge the Committee to pass S-2255.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "e".

Alex Moore

Political Director

SEIU 1199NE

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