

2025 -- H 5790

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LC001691
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$90,000,000 TO THE RHODE ISLAND EXECUTIVE
OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO SUPPORT PHYSICIAN
REIMBURSEMENT RATE INCREASES IN THE RHODE ISLAND MEDICAID PROGRAM

Introduced By: Representatives Noret, Corvese, Read, Azzinaro, Casimiro, Bennett,
Spears, Casey, Hopkins, and Kazarian

Date Introduced: February 26, 2025

Referred To: House Finance

1 WHEREAS, Adequate reimbursement for physicians and advanced practice providers is
2 critical to ensuring access to high-quality healthcare services for all Rhode Islanders; and

3 WHEREAS, More than half of Rhode Island voters report facing at least one healthcare
4 access challenge in the past year; and

5 WHEREAS, More than one third of Rhode Island voters had difficulty scheduling an
6 appointment with a specialist in the past year; and

7 WHEREAS, Rhode Island faces significant challenges in recruiting and retaining
8 physicians and advanced practice providers including, but not limited to, primary care providers,
9 pediatricians, and nurse practitioners, due to uncompetitive reimbursement rates; and

10 WHEREAS, Investment in increased physician reimbursement rates will enhance access
11 to healthcare services, improve health outcomes, and reduce long-term healthcare costs by
12 preventing avoidable hospitalizations and emergency room visits; and

13 WHEREAS, A targeted appropriation of the State's general revenue funds will support
14 Rhode Island's healthcare infrastructure and workforce sustainability; now, therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, from the general revenue of the State of
16 Rhode Island for fiscal year 2025-2026, the sum of ninety million dollars (\$90,000,000) to be
17 invested in increasing reimbursement rates for all physicians and advanced practice providers
18 including, but not limited to, primary care providers, pediatricians, nurse practitioners, and other
19 advanced practice providers; and the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human

- 1 Services shall administer the appropriation and oversee the disbursement of funds to ensure that
- 2 reimbursement rate adjustments are effectively implemented across Medicaid and other
- 3 applicable State-funded healthcare programs.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

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OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO SUPPORT PHYSICIAN
REIMBURSEMENT RATE INCREASES IN THE RHODE ISLAND MEDICAID PROGRAM

- 1 This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$90,000,000 to the
- 2 Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services to be invested in increasing
- 3 reimbursement rates for all physicians and advanced practice providers.

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