

The **Economic Progress Institute (EPI)** advocates for equitable policies that improve economic opportunities for all Rhode Islanders every year. But this year is not business as usual; the passage of the federal House Resolution 1 (H.R.1, also known as OBBBA) on July 4, 2025, made unprecedented cuts to Medicaid and SNAP funding to pay for tax breaks for the richest Americans. As a result, an estimated 53,000 Rhode Islanders will lose health insurance, and 14,000 are at risk of losing SNAP benefits. Tens of thousands more will see their healthcare costs increase. EPI's legislative priorities acknowledge that H.R.1 has created conditions for statewide crises and reflect EPI's commitment to meet this moment by advocating to protect Rhode Island's most vulnerable populations, communities, and industries from deep and lasting harm.

RHODE ISLAND BUDGET, REVENUE & TAX FAIRNESS

Top 1% Surtax: Raise revenue in a sustainable and equitable way, and improve tax fairness by enacting a 3% surtax on taxable income over \$640,000, the cut-off for the top 1%. This will raise an estimated \$203 million annually for Rhode Islanders and their future. [H 7313 \(Alzate\)](#); [S 2238 \(Murray\)](#)

[Revenue for Rhode Islanders](#)

State Earned-Income Tax Credit (EITC): Help working families by increasing the state EITC from 16% to 30% of the federal credit for Tax Year 2027 and beyond. [H 7594 \(O'Brien\)](#); [S 2364 \(Felag\)](#)

[RI Workforce Alliance](#)

State Child Tax Credit (CTC): Create a fully refundable \$625 state CTC to reduce child poverty and help families meet their basic needs. [H XXXX \(Tanzi\)](#); [S XXXX \(Vargas\)](#)

[RI Workforce Alliance](#)

Property Tax Relief: Improve affordability for the elderly and disabled by increasing the income limit and tax credit amount for elderly and disabled people who own or rent their homes. [H 7700 \(Cotter\)](#); [S 2031 \(Ujifusa\)](#)

Family Caregiver Tax Credit: Help families provide care by creating a tax credit for eligible expenses incurred for care and support of an eligible family member. [H 7241 \(Donovan\)](#); [S 2246 \(Ujifusa\)](#)

[Senior Agenda Coalition of RI](#)

INVESTMENTS IN HEALTHCARE

RI Individual Market Affordability Act: Create a state subsidy to replace the nearly \$60 million in recently expired federal subsidies that help low- and moderate-income people purchase health insurance through HealthSourceRI. [H 7466 \(Speakman\)](#); [S 2255 \(Lauria\)](#)

[Protect Our Healthcare Coalition](#)

RI Protect Our Healthcare Act: Expand funding for uncompensated care and strengthen existing infrastructure to ensure that the 50,000+ Rhode Islanders losing health coverage due to H.R.1 can still access healthcare beyond the emergency room. [H XXXX \(Donovan\)](#); [S XXXX \(DiPalma\)](#)

[Protect Our Healthcare Coalition](#)

INVESTMENTS IN HEALTHCARE (continued)

Medicare Savings Program (MSP): Expand eligibility for the Medicare Savings Program by eliminating the asset test. [H 7631 \(Alzate\)](#); [S XXXX \(DiPalma\)](#)

[Senior Agenda Coalition of RI](#)
[Protect Our Healthcare Coalition](#)

Contraceptive Care: Expand access to no-cost-share contraception to include the full range of contraception and guarantee coverage of any new over-the-counter methods. [H 7323 \(Alzate\)](#); [S 2254 \(Euer\)](#)

[Protect Our Healthcare Coalition](#)

Regulate Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use in Healthcare: Promote transparency and accountability in the use of AI by health insurers to manage coverage and claims. [H 7190 \(Donovan\)](#); [S 2010 \(Ujifusa\)](#)

[Protect Our Healthcare Coalition](#)

Pediatric Medicaid Reimbursement Rate: Increase the Medicaid reimbursement for outpatient clinical services rendered to patients under age 19. [H 7693 \(Tanzi\)](#); [S 2542 \(Lauria\)](#)

[Right from the Start](#)

Health Coverage for Lactation Counselors: Expand access to lactation counselor services by requiring health insurance plans to cover services provided by licensed certified lactation counselors. [H 7277 \(Stewart\)](#); [S 2383 \(Mack\)](#)

[Coalition to Improve Rhode Island Maternity Care](#)

Midwifery Care and Access: Expand access to midwifery care by requiring health insurance plans to cover services provided by licensed certified professional midwives. [H 7275 \(Stewart\)](#); [S 2381 \(Mack\)](#)

[Coalition to Improve Rhode Island Maternity Care](#)

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Paid Family Leave (TCI): Increase the maximum leave to 12 weeks; expand reimbursement rate for TCI/TDI; increase the contribution base for TCI/TDI; expand the definition of family to include grandchildren; establish an opt-in option for self-employed workers and sole proprietors. [H XXXX \(Giraldo\)](#); [S XXXX \(Lawson\)](#)

[RI Paid Family Leave Coalition](#)

Minimum Wage: Pay Rhode Islanders a living wage by increasing the state minimum wage to \$24/hour in 2027 [H 7771 \(Sanchez\)](#); [S XXXX \(Mack\)](#), or help people meet basic needs by increasing the state minimum wage to \$20/hour in 2027. [H 7769 \(Furtado\)](#); [S 2620 \(Kallman\)](#)

[RI Workforce Alliance](#)

Support and Access to Bilingual Education (SABE) Act: Invest \$650,000 in funding for multilingual teacher

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY (continued)

certifications and to create job opportunities for Rhode Islanders; additionally, the bill would invest \$300,000 for districts to start, expand, and improve Pre K-12 dual language programs. [H 7389 \(Morales\)](#); [S 2555 \(McKenney\)](#)

[Multilingual RI
RI Workforce Alliance](#)

Secure Choice Savings Program: Amend the Rhode Island Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program Act to update definitions and program provisions for continued administration and interstate partnership. [H 7475 \(Shanley\)](#); [S XXXX \(Kallman\)](#)

INVESTMENTS IN CHILDREN

Child Care Assistance: Expand income eligibility for RI's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP); expand income eligibility for the CCAP for Child Care Educators pilot program; and increase provider rates for childcare programs, including tiered rate increase for infant rates, to address the staffing and wage crisis in this sector. [H 7393 \(Diaz\)](#); [S XXXX \(Vargas\)](#)

[Right from the Start](#)

Remove Child Support Enforcement from CCAP: Remove the requirement that families consent to and cooperate with the Department of Human Services in establishing paternity and enforcing child and medical support orders as a condition of eligibility for childcare assistance. [H 7320 \(Diaz\)](#); [S 2126 \(DiMario\)](#)

[Right from the Start](#)

Child Care for Child Care Educators: Eliminate the sunset date on the Child Care for Child Care Educators pilot program, and expand eligibility by increasing the family income limit. [H 7319 \(Diaz\)](#); [S 2085 \(DiMario\)](#)

[Right from the Start](#)

Early Educator Workforce Act: Direct the Department of Human Services and Department of Education to work together to sustain and strengthen existing workforce development and compensation programs for educators working in licensed child care and early learning programs statewide, and allocate \$1 million to continue the Child Care WAGE\$ program to sustain and strengthen the child care workforce. [H 7317 \(Donovan\)](#); [S 2369 \(Urso\)](#)

[Right from the Start](#)

Rhode Island Pre-Kindergarten Education Act: Promote access to high-quality early education for children ages three and four, and ensure both RI Pre-K and Head Start program models are supported. [H XXXX \(McNamara\)](#); [S XXXX \(Gallo\)](#)

[Right from the Start](#)

Include Head Start in Early Childhood Categorical Fund: Include Head Start in the calculation of the Early Childhood Categorical fund; direct the Department of Human Services and Head Start Collaboration Office to recommend allocation for program funds. [H 7680 \(Donovan\)](#); [S XXXX \(Gallo\)](#)

[Right from the Start](#)

INVESTMENTS IN CHILDREN (continued)

Sustain Family Home Visiting Programs: Direct the Department of Health to secure and spend down all available federal dollars for Family Home Visiting. [H 7794 \(Giraldo\)](#); [S XXXX \(Valverde\)](#)

[Right from the Start](#)

Early Intervention Rate Increase and Public Data Dashboard: Update the early intervention program description and clarify the agency responsible for early intervention services; increase the Medicaid reimbursement rate for early intervention service providers and mandate the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) maintain and update the early intervention data database. [H 7586 \(Cotter\)](#); [S XXXX \(Valverde\)](#)

[Right from the Start](#)

Early Intervention Extension: Allow children with developmental disabilities who turn three between May 1 and August 31 to continue receiving early intervention services until September 1; direct the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) to create a plan ensuring smooth transitions to early childhood special education with minimal service gaps; and mandate private health insurers cover these extended services. [H 7627 \(Tanzi\)](#); [S XXXX \(Valverde\)](#)

[Right from the Start](#)

Sustain the PediPRN Program: Sustain the PediPRN consultation program that provides care for pediatric mental health challenges. [H XXXX \(Shallcross Smith\)](#); [S 2562 \(DiMario\)](#)

[Right from the Start](#)

Fund Rhode Island Baby Bonds Trust Program: Fund the Rhode Island Baby Bonds Trust for children (with a parent or guardian enrolled in the Rhode Island Works program within the child's first year of life) through an annual allocation of unclaimed property remittances. [H 7797 \(Giraldo\)](#); [S XXXX \(Murray\)](#)

[Raising Rhode Island](#)

LIFTING RHODE ISLANDERS OUT OF DEEP POVERTY

Expand Rhode Island Works: Increase the RI Works benefit to 100% FPL and link to inflation; restore eligibility to legal permanent residents; increase the child support pass-through; and remove the benefit reduction for families living in subsidized housing. [H 7689 \(Handy\)](#); [S XXXX \(Murray\)](#)

[Raising Rhode Island](#)

Increase Child Support Passthrough for Rhode Island Works: Increase the child support passthrough from \$50 per month to \$100 for one child and \$200 per month for two or more children for single parents on Rhode Island Works. [H 7690 \(Handy\)](#); [S XXXX \(Murray\)](#)

[Raising Rhode Island](#)

Predatory Lending: End Rent-a-Bank scheme by having the state opt out of federal rule that allows lenders

LIFTING RHODE ISLANDERS OUT OF DEEP POVERTY (continued)

to avoid Rhode Island interest rate limits by using limits from other states, and by strengthening anti-evasion rules. [H XXXX \(Handy\)](#); [S 2206 \(Bell\)](#)

[Predatory Lending Reform Coalition](#)

[Direct Action for Rights and Equality \(DARE\)](#)

Affordable Housing: Help Rhode Islanders meet their basic needs by limiting rent increases to no more than 4% annually and providing tenants with a right civil action to recover damages for any violations. [H XXXX \(Potter\)](#); [S 2271 \(Mack\)](#)

[Direct Action for Rights and Equality \(DARE\)](#)

Renter Protections: Prevent evictions by increasing notice to renters from 30 to 60 days for rent increases and termination of tenancy [H 7765 \(Stewart\)](#); [S 2579 \(Bissaillon\)](#) and requiring landlords provide “just cause” for evictions. [H XXXX \(Cruz\)](#); [S 2294 \(Mack\)](#)

Percentage Income Payment Plan (PIPP): Create an income-sensitive tiered subsidy program to ensure that home energy utility costs are affordable for eligible low-income households. [H XXXX \(Slater\)](#); [S 2248 \(Sosnowski\)](#)

[George Wiley Center](#)

Nutrition Assistance: Reduce food insecurity by allocating \$3 million to RI Community Food Bank. [H 7259 \(Slater\)](#); [S 2237 \(Mack\)](#)

RACE, EQUITY & DEMOCRACY

Equity Impact Statements: Create a two-year pilot program to allow Equity Impact Statements (tools similar to fiscal notes) for proposed legislation and the governor’s proposed budget - policies and budgets should reflect Rhode Island’s values and ensure that everyone can thrive. [H 7236 \(Morales\)](#); [S XXX \(Mack\)](#)

[Equity Impact Campaign](#)

364 Day Misdemeanor: Protect Rhode Islanders from deportation for minor offenses by decreasing the maximum penalty for a misdemeanor from 365 to 364 days of incarceration. [H 7198 \(Felix\)](#); [S 2047 \(Acosta\)](#)

[Immigrant Coalition of Rhode Island](#)

Protect Our Courts Act: Protect Rhode Islanders attending court proceedings from civil arrest without a judicial warrant. [H 7360 \(Batista\)](#); [S 2045 \(Kallman\)](#)

[Immigrant Coalition of Rhode Island](#)

RI Federal Constitution Defense Act: Protect Rhode Islanders by permitting them to sue federal officials who violate someone’s federal constitutional rights in RI. [H 7202 \(Potter\)](#); [S 2605 \(Ciccone\)](#)

[Immigrant Coalition of Rhode Island](#)

RACE, EQUITY & DEMOCRACY (continued)

Same-Day Voter Registration: Allow Rhode Islanders to vote on whether they want to increase voter turnout and improve voter list accuracy by allowing eligible residents to register and vote up to and on election day. [HJR 7303 \(Alzate\)](#); [SJR 2132 \(LaMountain\)](#)

[Let RI vote](#)

RI Cannabis Equity: Make several amendments to the Cannabis Act relating to applications for licensure, the social equity assistance program, and the application of cannabis tax revenue. [H XXXX \(Felix\)](#); [S XXXX \(Acosta\)](#)

[RI Cannabis Equity Coalition](#)

Bail Reform: Improve racial equity by requiring courts to grant bail or personal recognizance to people facing an alleged 32F probation violation. [H 7651 \(Batista\)](#); [S 2161 \(Kallman\)](#)

[Direct Action for Rights and Equality \(DARE\)](#)

RI Public Transit Authority (RIPTA): Improve the state's public transit system by appropriating \$5 million to restore the 2025 service cuts to RIPTA. [H XXXX \(Alzate\)](#); [S XXXX \(McKenney\)](#)

[Providence Streets Coalition](#)

Amend the Transportation Investment and Debt Reduction Act of 2011: Increase RIPTA's share of the Highway Maintenance Fund from 10% to 20%; federal transportation funding has largely followed an 80/20 split between highways and mass transit since 1982 when it was established by Congress. [H XXXX \(Cortvriend\)](#); [S 2095 \(Zurier\)](#)

[Providence Streets Coalition](#)

Rideshare Sales Tax Reallocation: Allocate the current 7% sales tax collected on all Uber/Lyft rides to RIPTA's operational budget, with estimated annual revenue of \$10 million - \$15 million. [H XXXX \(Stewart\)](#); [S XXXX \(Britto\)](#)

[Providence Streets Coalition](#)

Commuter Transportation Benefits Act: Require any company with 500 or more employees to provide bus passes to employees as a pre-tax transportation fringe benefit to generate more revenue for RIPTA via its Wave to Work program. [H 7363 \(Hull\)](#); [S 2323 \(Bissaillon\)](#)

[Providence Streets Coalition](#)