



**Testimony in Support of H 5120 – An Act Relating to Insurance
Benefit Determination and Utilization Review Act
House Committee on Health and Human Services
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The Economic Progress Institute strongly supports Rep. Potter's H 5120, which prohibits insurers from imposing prior authorization requirements for any service ordered by an in-network primary care provider.

All Rhode Islanders deserve access to affordable comprehensive healthcare. Unfortunately, prior authorization requirements often cause delays in patient care, worse patient outcomes, and/or cause patients to abandon treatment altogether. Removing barriers to care, like prior authorization requirements, will improve health outcomes and reduce the harm and expense of delayed or abandoned care that often result in hospitalizations that could have been prevented.

Prior authorization requirements also create an administrative burden for healthcare professionals that diverts time and resources away from patient care and contributes to physician burnout. RI has been experiencing a shortage of primary care physicians; this shortage has been attributed to several factors, including physician burnout and retirement, lower Medicaid reimbursement rates than our neighboring states, and failure to attract and retain new primary care physicians to RI. This shortage will likely worsen with the sudden closing of Anchor Medical in June 2025, which will leave 25,000 Rhode Islanders needing new doctors.¹ Reducing prior authorization requirements and other administrative burdens placed on primary care doctors is one way the state can and should reduce burnout among physicians and address the primary care shortage.

H 5120 would make it easier for Rhode Islanders to timely access the lifesaving healthcare services they need. We strongly urge passage.

¹ [RI's Anchor Medical to close in June; roughly 25,000 patients need new doctors | WPRI.com](https://www.wpri.com/story/news/politics/2025/04/23/anchor-medical-closing-25000-patients-need-new-doctors/11811170002)