



**Testimony in Support of H-7631 – Medicare Savings Program Asset Test
House Committee on Finance**

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The Economic Progress Institute strongly supports Rep. Alzate's H-7631, which would improve access to healthcare by eliminating the asset test for the Medicare Savings Program.

All Rhode Islanders deserve quality affordable healthcare that doesn't force them to choose between paying for their prescriptions or exhausting their savings. The Medicare Savings Program helps low-income seniors and people with disabilities afford healthcare by covering premiums and other out-of-pocket costs. Unfortunately, the current asset test forces many otherwise eligible Rhode Islanders to spend down their modest savings before they can receive assistance. This policy penalizes individuals who have worked hard to save small amounts for emergencies, funeral expenses, or other unexpected needs.

Eliminating the asset test would remove an unnecessary barrier to healthcare, simplify administration, and help more Rhode Islanders access the benefits for which they already qualify based on their income. No one should have to choose between preserving a small financial cushion and obtaining affordable healthcare. For older adults and people with disabilities living on fixed incomes, even small medical expenses can create significant hardship. Removing the asset test would promote economic stability and help ensure that vulnerable Rhode Islanders can maintain access to the care they need.

The Economic Progress Institute strongly urges passage of H-7631.