



Testimony in support of Senate Bill 2785 SUBA2

The Protect Our Healthcare Coalition – a group of 23 leading consumer and community organizations -- supports the bill 2785 SubA2 because it enacts Essential Health Benefits (EHBs) and no-cost sharing for preventative services as a part of state law. This is important as ongoing administrative actions at the Federal level continue to erode key consumer protections of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

While the Coalition is disappointed that the full scope of consumer protections are not included in the bill we believe EHBs and no-cost-sharing provisions are fundamental to protecting consumers and a good first step to codifying ACA protections in state law. Other states are taking similar actions, most recently Connecticut with the passage of CT Bill sHB 5210 (as amended by House "A").

The ten EHB categories proposed in the bill include two categories not currently protected in Rhode Island law, pediatric vision and dental care and rehabilitative and habilitative services, which are critical services for vulnerable populations.

The provisions of 2875 SubA2 will help address consumer affordability by enacting no cost sharing for preventative services in state law and will support market stability by ensuring quality of coverage.

Thank you for your consideration.

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