



March 15th, 2023

Dear House Health & Human Services Committee:

I am a Rhode Island voter and representative from COYOTE RI writing to you today in strong support of H5431 & H5430. These 2 bills are extremely important to ensure our community has access to vital medications.

I am generationally poor. I have 14 documented medical conditions and my monthly medications run around 1200 a month. As a single person in RI, if I earn more than 18,100 I would lose access to Medicaid. This is very problematic because my rent is 19k a year and I like many Rhode Islander's I struggle to make rent every month

Those who earn minimum wage do not qualify for Medicaid, yet we know people who earn minimum wage do not earn enough to cover their rent. Those earning minimum wage can access health insurance for 2 dollars a month, however it wouldnt cover any of their medications and there would be a 10% Co-pay for every DRs appointment and procedure.

Not only do we need to pass H5431 & H5430, we also need to increase the income eligibility limits for SNAP and Medicaid, as it's problematic that people who can barely make rent do not qualify for these services.

We urge you to vote YES on H5431 & H5430

.Thank you for your consideration,

Bella Robinson, Executive director
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