

HOW TO TALK WITH LAWMAKERS



INTRODUCTION

STEP
1

- **Introduce yourself.** If you live in their district, tell them that!
- If you work for an agency: Tell them who you work for and what types of people you serve.
- If you receive support: Tell them who are and why you are here
- **Keep this incredibly brief,** they meet a lot of people every day.



WHAT YOU WANT THEM TO SUPPORT

STEP
2

- **Tell them you want them to pass S0782 & H5987.** If there is only one thing you mention, tell them this!
- **Tell them what the bill does.** Don't tell them everything on the list below. Mention one thing and let them ask questions if they have them. This bill does:
 - **Invests** a 10% rate increase that will help sustain wages for workers and help people get the support they need
 - **Builds** on last year's work of securing a rate review. Investment is needed in the short-term.
 - **Support** Rhode Islanders who need it including people with disabilities, seniors, children and families and those with behavioral health conditions and substance use



WHY THEY SHOULD SUPPORT (YOUR STORY)

STEP
3

- You are here today for a reason! Why do you care about this legislation?
- Tell lawmakers **your story.**
- Be brief! Keep this to a maximum of two minutes.



ASK

STEP
4

- Ask them if they will support S0782 & H5987.
- Don't forget this part! Closing with an ask is important.
- Tell us what they said by filling out the back of this packet!



QUESTIONS

STEP
5

- Ask lawmakers if they have any questions. *See back for FAQs!*
- **Don't know the answer?** That is okay! Tell them you will get back to them with an answer and see someone in a white t-shirt for help.



FOLLOW UP

STEP
6

- Send them a personal email thanking them for their time. Remind them of what you want them to pass: S0782 & H5987.
- Follow up with answers to questions if you told them you would.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

S0782 & H5987

DIDN'T WE PASS A BILL LIKE THIS LAST YEAR?

No. Last year's rate review bill did something very different but important.

It will standardize how we invest in services, but did not fund services. The review will inform investments until 2025. Action is needed before then.

WHAT DOES THE BILL DO?

It increases community based rates by 10 percent. This increase will improve wages for workers and therefore provide support for Rhode Island's vulnerable populations.

WHAT RATES ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

Medicaid rates for home and community based services. These rates are not nursing home or hospital rates. These are for treatments such as senior home care, behavioral health treatment or disability community-based services.

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE SUPPORTED IN THIS INDUSTRY?

Across Rhode Island, over 300,000 people (about 27%) are on Medicaid. About 100,000 people are supported by the HHS Coalition in various ways.

"WE ONLY HAVE SO MUCH MONEY. WE CAN'T DO IT ALL."

The money we do have can be directed to some of the most important services in the State. People need help. A lack of an investment now, means an even larger one later.

WHAT DID THEY SAY?

Let us know by filling out this quick survey.

One person will get a small prize.



ADVOCACY 101

LET'S PASS **S0782 & H5987**



COMMUNITY
PROVIDER NETWORK
OF RHODE ISLAND



HORIZON
HEALTHCARE
PARTNERS



Rhode Island
Coalition for
Children and Families
Promoting safety, health and success from infancy to adulthood.



HOW TO TELL YOUR STORY TO YOUR LAWMAKER

DO'S:

- ✓ Be brief
- ✓ Tell your story
- ✓ Ask for direct support of our legislation
- ✓ Admit when you don't know something. Offer to follow-up with the answer
- ✓ Report back to us what lawmakers said to you (See back)



DONT'S:

- ✗ Stretch the truth
- ✗ Debate your lawmaker
- ✗ Talk divisive politics; stick to the facts
- ✗ Assume your lawmaker knows why this legislation matters
- ✗ Forget to tell us what lawmakers said to you (See back)



WHY S0782 & H5987 MATTER

WHAT:

Invests \$200 million in community based services for 2024

WHO:

This impacts seniors, children and families, people with disabilities, and those with behavioral health conditions and substance use

WHY:

This is an investment in workers and supports our most vulnerable populations

Investment
in
Workers



Stability
of
Services



People
Supported

YOUR STORY MATTERS

Your **personal** story could change legislators' perspective on the bill.

Tell them **why** it matters to you.

This legislation will **change** lives.



NEED HELP

Find anyone in a white T-shirt! We will guide you in the right direction.



THANK YOU FOR COMING! YOU ARE HELPING CREATE CHANGE.

WHAT DID LAWMAKERS SAY?

FILL OUT HERE OR ONLINE

The success of this bill depends on lawmakers' support. Tell us who supports this legislation and who does not by filling out this short survey.

One lucky person will win a small prize from us too.



Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____ Organization: _____

Who did you talk to? *(Last name and/or district works. Specify House or Senate):*

Were they supportive of our legislation?

Very supportive Supportive Neutral Not supportive

Anything else you think we should know ? *(Examples: They committed to voting for our legislation, they said they needed more information, they said they were absolutely against our bill, etc.)*

RESOURCES

House Seating Chart



Find your lawmakers



Senate Seating Chart

