

protect your healthcare rhode island coalition



challenge: For the past five years, Congress has introduced legislation to create federal Association Health Plans or AHPs. These AHPs would be exempt from all state health insurance regulations including prompt payment of claims rules, minimum solvency standards, and important mandated benefits like cancer screenings, diabetes treatment, and mental health parity.

solution: To organize Rhode Island groups opposed to this potentially harmful legislation, the national Protect Your Healthcare Coalition engaged Advocacy Solutions. Over the past three years Advocacy Solutions has:

- ☑ Reached out to and recruited 30 Rhode Island organizations opposed to AHPs. Coalition members include such prominent groups as the American Cancer Society–Rhode Island Chapter, the Rhode Island Medical Society, the Rhode Island Breast Cancer Coalition, and the Rhode Island Mental Health Coalition.
- ☑ Generated more than 60 letters to the offices of Senator Lincoln Chafee and Senator Jack Reed.
- ☑ Organized coalition meetings with Senator Chafee and Senator Reed.
- ☑ Organized a press conference to highlight important benefits that would be lost under AHPs. Press conference generated positive coverage in the Warwick Beacon and on local drive time radio stations.
- ☑ Authored and placed two Providence Journal op-eds noting the many problems with AHPs.

result: As a result of Protect Your Healthcare Rhode Island's efforts, neither Senator Chafee or Senator Reed have co-sponsored AHP legislation in the Senate, and neither has publicly endorsed AHPs as good for consumers.

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