

# House, Senate health chairs push bill to preserve Obamacare in R.I.

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By [G. Wayne Miller](#)  
**Journal Staff Writer**

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“Whatever may happen at the federal level, we want to do everything we can to help Rhode Islanders remain adequately insured,” the Senate Health and Human Services Committee chairman, Joshua Miller, stated in a media release. “This bill enacts the Affordable Care Act’s standards of care that, in most instances, have been in place since 2010 at the state level, in case the ACA is overturned or repealed.”

The House Health, Education and Welfare Committee chairman, Joseph M. McNamara, stated: “We all deserve better than to have a constant threat to our health care. Enacting the protections of the bill at the state level will mean that Rhode Islanders will be better protected, and that our insurance market will be stable.”

According to the chairmen’s joint media release, the legislation would make state law provisions, including:

“Prohibiting annual limits and lifetime dollar caps on coverage for essential benefits. Guaranteeing that dependents up to age 26 can stay on their parents’ plans. Guaranteeing protections against pre-existing condition exclusions. Requiring essential benefit coverage that must be included at every tier of coverage: preventive services, maternity, hospital, mental health ...”

Also, “guaranteeing issue and renewal so no one can be denied a policy, even if sick. Allowing discounts for wellness programs. Allowing insurance premium rates to vary only by age [not gender or health]. Setting out-of-pocket limits with a process for updating these annually.”