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## **State of Rhode Island and Brown University Announce the Second Phase of the Cost Trends Project**

**CRANSTON, R.I.** – After its success last year, the Health Care Cost Trends Project, a collaborative partnership between the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC), the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), Brown University’s School of Public Health, and the Peterson Center on Healthcare announced today the launch of the next phase of the project.

In phase one, project participants established a cost growth target of 3.2% for the state, making Rhode Island the first state in the nation to have a wide array of stakeholders voluntarily commit to working toward a health care spending target. This phase of the project also included analysis of the key “drivers” of health care cost growth in the state.

In phase two, project participants will use data to drive innovation and support actionable steps to improve Rhode Island’s health care system. Phase two will also support the implementation of the cost growth target and the measurement of the state’s health insurers and large provider organizations’ performance relative to the target. Project participants include the state’s major health care providers, insurers, representatives of the business community and consumer advocates.

“Phase one of this collaborative project proved that together, using data, we can create innovative solutions to improve the health care system for all Rhode Islanders,” said Governor Raimondo. “Building off the success of phase one, we will continue to take important steps to increase access to quality, affordable health care for all Rhode Islanders while utilizing data to control costs and improve the system.”

Phase two of this project was made possible by an 18-month grant awarded by the Peterson Center on Healthcare to Brown University’s School of Public Health to support the continued partnership of the Healthcare Cost Trends Project. The project will once again be guided by a steering committee comprised of government, business, and community leaders who are committed to improving the health care system by translating data into action. “This initiative holds great potential because it brings together a broad cross-section of the healthcare community around a shared goal,” said Michael A. Peterson, CEO of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation. “Through this collaborative effort, Rhode Island can serve as a model for identifying approaches that move the needle in healthcare efficiency and performance, forging a new standard of care.”

In addition to the cost growth target implementation, the 18-month long collaboration will focus on the strategic use of data, stakeholder engagement, sustainability, and various policy analyses—all under the guidance of the steering committee. Brown University also will work with health care providers to design standard reports that support improvements in quality and efficiency in the health care system.

“Our team is thrilled to continue the collaboration we began in phase one of this project,” said Ira Wilson, a professor in the Brown School of Public Health and Chair of the Department of Health Services, Policy and Practice. “This partnership has gathered critical data, and in these next steps we will utilize that information to better inform innovative policy decisions that will help reduce the growth of health care spending in our state.”

“Rhode Island continues to be at the forefront of health care reform and innovation,” said Health Insurance Commissioner Marie Ganim. “The important achievements we made in phase one of this project have set us on a path toward cooperative and meaningful cost containment in Rhode Island, and this next step in the project will increase cost transparency and develop policies to curb health spending while maintaining the quality of care.”