

## 2014 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### HEALTH

- The Assembly approved several measures to address the region's opioid overdose epidemic, strengthening parity in coverage of mental health and substance use disorders, requiring insurance coverage for methadone and opioid overdose treatment and better hospital discharge plans for patients with substance abuse disorders, and encouraging more widespread use of the state's electronic prescription drug monitoring program.
- The General Assembly approved several bills to better integrate behavioral health and primary care, including a bill calling upon the Department of Health and the Office of the Insurance Commissioner to scrutinize the state's laws and regulations to ensure that those with behavioral health care needs receive the services they require, and another for the creation of a pilot project to integrate health promotion and primary and behavioral healthcare.
- The General Assembly approved legislation designed to help expedite the Department of Health "certificate of need" process and to help open doors for domestic medical tourism companies to locate in Rhode Island.
- Lawmakers prohibited the sale of e-cigarettes to minors.
- Legislators approved a bill to establish a licensing process for lactation consultants, thereby facilitating insurance coverage of their service to assist nursing mothers and infants.
- A new law requires health care facilities that perform mammograms to notify their patient of dense breast tissue and basic information about breast density.
- Legislation approved by the Assembly directs the creation of a state plan to better enable the state's elderly population to remain living in their communities.