



BROWN
Alpert Medical School



29 July, 2020

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chairman
House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith St
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Amendment to Article 5 – Relating to Capital Development Program (20-H-7171)

I am writing in full support of this amendment which would add resources for the design and construction of new health laboratories and ancillary facilities to provide enhanced public health services, pursue medical innovations, and develop a bioscience-related economy at a cost totaling \$107.0 million.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare- we in Rhode Island have been the beneficiaries of truly outstanding public health leadership which has been predicated on having superb SARS-CoV-2 testing available at a per capita basis that is the envy of most of the rest of the country. This has been possible due to the dedication of a remarkable workforce within RIDOH.

At the same time, we must also acknowledge that our RIDOH scientists and staff have been performing 21st century science while residing in an 18th century facility !

Our RIDOH laboratories are desperately in need of a proper facility to allow them to continue to meet the challenges of the current pandemic, but also so they may properly plan and build their capacity to respond to the next, inevitable waves of future pandemics.

For this reason, I lend my complete support to the urgent need for investments in our State's public health infrastructure.

If I could be of any assistance in your assessment of the need for this investment, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Kurtis, MD, PhD

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