



Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
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May 7, 2024

Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr., Chairman  
House Committee on Corporations  
State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

**RE: House Bill 2024- H 8217**

Dear Chairman Solomon:

Please accept this letter of support for **2024-H 8217**, which would, if enacted, safeguard continued necessary oversight of the Rhode Island Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) Program.

The (NEMT) Program is the transportation program established to provide cost-effective NEMT services for individuals eligible for medical assistance under the Medicaid State Plan. These individuals need access to health care services and usually have no other form of transportation. Rhode Island's NEMT services are also available to individuals through the Elderly Transportation Program and monthly bus pass distribution for the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families TANF program, otherwise known as Rhode Island Works.

Federal Regulations and the Rhode Island State Plan Amendment require Rhode Island to utilize a broker model. NEMT Programs carry out approximately 2.2 million rides per year. Approximately 56% of those rides are completed by vehicles subject to this legislation. This type of transport program is utilized by our seniors and/or individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities. The RI Public Utilities Commission requirements and processes, as proposed in this legislation, enhance all the EOHHS imposed vehicle and driver requirements, creating a higher level of comfort and confidence with the companies and drivers selected by the broker to transport under these programs.

*Medical Transport Management, Inc.* (MTM) was awarded the contract for Brokerage Transportation Services for the RI NEMT Program. This vendor must meet new performance standards and contract requirements to ensure that they remain in good standing with the contractual obligations and oversight conducted continuously by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services and Medicaid. MTM must ensure that all vehicles and drivers comply with the applicable laws, regulations, and ordinances of federal, state, and local agencies in the jurisdictions in which they operate, including public motor vehicle and taxicab authorities (RI Public Utilities Commission), and ambulance authorities (RI Department of Health). This legislation, if enacted, would continue to provide the necessary oversight of the NEMT program by the executive branch of government.

Sincerely,

*Kristin Pano Sousa*



Kristin Pono Sousa Medicaid Program Director  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services

CC: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Corporations  
Honorable Patricia A. Serpa  
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House

