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April 14, 2026

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.
Rhode Island House of Representatives
House Corporations Committee
(Submitted electronically HouseCorporations@rilegislature.gov)

Dear Chair Solomon Jr. and Members of the Committee:

Please accept the Rhode Island Health Center Association's letter in support of House Bill 7837, which seeks to expand reimbursement for Public Health Dental Hygienists (PHDHs) to include other insurance providers or third-party payers, such as Medicare.

Without access to dental care, many preventable oral health conditions often escalate, leading to unnecessary pain, suffering, and even systemic health complications. With their specialized training and expertise, PHDHs are uniquely positioned to bridge gaps in care by providing essential preventive services, such as screenings, cleanings, and education, directly within the community.

Allowing PHDHs to bill other insurances would help close the gap for underserved populations and expand the availability of dental care services to all Rhode Islanders. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

M. Campbell

Melissa Campbell
Policy Manager

Rhode Island Health Center Association members include:
Blackstone Valley Community Health Care Inc. ~ Comprehensive Community Action Program
East Bay Community Action Program ~ Providence Community Health Centers
Thundermist Health Center ~ Tri-County Community Action Agency
WellOne Primary Medical and Dental Care ~ Wood River Health