



To: House Committee on Corporations
From: Care New England Health System
Date: April 14, 2026
Subject: CNE Testimony on H 7862 — An Act Relating To Insurance -- Healthcare Accessibility And Quality Assurance Act

Dear Chairman Solomon and members of the Committee,

Care New England (CNE) Health System is a trusted, integrated health care organization that fuels the latest advances in medical research, attracts the nation's top specialty-trained doctors, features nationally recognized services and cutting-edge programs, and engages in the important discussions people need to have about their health. CNE is helping to transform the future of health care, providing a leading voice in the ongoing effort to ensure the health of the individuals and communities we serve. With over 8,000 employees throughout Rhode Island, we are the fourth-largest employer and second-largest health system in the Ocean State.

Care New England Health System respectfully submits testimony in support of H-7862, legislation that would prohibit the unilateral modification of provider contracts. This proposal represents an important and necessary step toward strengthening fairness, transparency, and stability across Rhode Island's health care system.

Currently, health care providers operate within a contracting environment in which insurers may impose mid-contract changes to key terms such as reimbursement methodologies, fee schedules, and prior authorization requirements. These changes can occur without mutual agreement and introduce significant operational and financial uncertainty. As a result, providers are often required to rapidly adapt to shifting requirements that increase administrative burden and divert resources away from patient care.

For a health system like Care New England, which is deeply committed to ensuring access to high-quality, coordinated care, this unpredictability creates real challenges. Contract instability affects not only financial planning and workforce sustainability, but also the ability to maintain consistent access to services for patients across the communities we serve. At a time when Rhode Island's health care system continues to face workforce shortages, rising costs, and capacity constraints, stability in payer-provider relationships is essential.

H-7862 introduces reasonable guardrails that promote contractual integrity by requiring mutual agreement for any material changes during the term of a contract. It also provides clarity by defining what constitutes



Care New England, 10 Charles Street, Suite 250, Providence, RI 02904
carenewengland.org

material terms and ensures transparency through advance notice requirements prior to contract renewal. These provisions help establish a more balanced and predictable framework that supports both providers and patients.

By reinforcing fairness in contracting, this legislation will allow health care providers to focus more fully on delivering high-quality care, investing in their workforce, and meeting the evolving needs of Rhode Island patients. It represents a practical and thoughtful approach to improving the overall functioning of our health care system.

Care New England Health System urges the Committee to support H-7862 and appreciates the continued leadership on issues critical to the health and well-being of Rhode Islanders.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Wagner".

Michael Wagner, MD

Care New England Health System