



To: House Committee on Corporations
From: Care New England Health System
Date: April 14, 2026
Subject: CNE Testimony on H 7875 — An Act Relating To State Affairs And Government -- The Rhode Island Health Care Reform Act Of 2004 -- Health Insurance Oversight

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 physicians, and delivers nationally recognized services and programs. CNE plays a leading role in shaping the future of health care and ensuring the health of the individuals and communities we serve. With over 8,000 employees across Rhode Island, we are the fourth-largest employer and second-largest health system in the state.

On behalf of Care New England, we write to express support for H-7875. This legislation is a timely response to evolving federal coverage changes that will directly impact Rhode Island’s health care system. As these changes take effect, more individuals are likely to lose commercial insurance or Medicaid coverage. While coverage may be lost, the need for care remains—shifting the burden increasingly onto hospitals and health systems.

Hospitals are already operating within a challenging reimbursement environment. Medicare and Medicaid rates do not fully cover the cost of care, requiring health systems to rely on a balanced payer mix to remain financially viable. At the same time, Rhode Island’s hospital rate cap, while effective in controlling costs for consumers, continues to place pressure on hospital margins and long-term sustainability.

Although recent investments have provided some stabilization, the system remains fragile. Without proactive policy solutions, the combined effects of coverage loss and structural underpayment threaten access to care and the strength of Rhode Island’s health care infrastructure.

H-7875 is an important step in addressing these challenges. By recognizing the growing burden of uncompensated care, it helps ensure hospitals can continue to provide care to all Rhode Islanders, regardless of insurance status.

Care New England respectfully urges the Committee to support H-7875 and take continued steps to preserve access, strengthen system stability, and protect the progress Rhode Island has made.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Wagner, MD

Care New England Health System