



171 Service Ave
Bldg 1, Suit 102
Warwick, RI 02886

401-330-2535 phone
401-273-5705 fax
www.bayada.com

May 15, 2024

Hon. Marvin Abney, Chairman

Committee on Finance

Rhode Island House of Representatives

82 Smith Street

Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for House Bill 7298 "Medicaid Home Care Rate Increases"

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to bring your attention to a critical issue impacting your homebound constituent's dependent on home care services. Rhode Island's Medicaid Program severely underfunds home care services and support. Its rates are set by the General Assembly through the annual budget process. OHIC, the Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner, released a report on September 1, 2023, stating that Rhode Island's home care providers are on average 49.1% to 74.5% underfunded compared to its New England state counterparts. This report did not include the 18.9% underfunding for skilled nursing and therapeutic services provided in the home for children and adults with exceptional disabilities, as well as elders requiring nursing services following an injury, major surgery, chronic debilitating illness or care toward end-of-life.

I work with some of the most vulnerable Rhode Islanders, children and young adults who need nursing daily to maintain their quality of life. Many of these individuals have a tracheostomy and need a ventilator to breathe. It breaks my heart when families call looking for services for

Compassion. Excellence. Reliability.

their child or loved one and I must inform them that they will need to be put on a wait list because of the shortage of nurses willing to work in home care due to the poor reimbursement rates. Can you imagine being a parent or family and this is part of your daily existence while still trying to juggle a job, other kids or family member and some semblance of a personal life. Sounds impossible, doesn't it?

I am asking you to support including House Bill 7298, sponsored by Representative Patricia Serpa, to fully-fund home care services for our most vulnerable, homebound Rhode Islanders. We are concerned about your constituents that are sitting on wait lists for months hoping to receive the care necessary to remain safe at home. Including the language in this bill in the SFY25 budget will raise wages to stabilize and grow the home care workforce necessary to provide care at home for Rhode Islanders in need.

Thank you for supporting home care, our patients and clients that receive quality, safe care to remain at home, and our employees that ensure healthcare services are performed efficiently and cost-effectively. If you have any questions, please contact me at 401-330-2535

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Boschwitz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard Boschwitz

Director