

235 Promenade Street | Suite 455  
Telephone: 401-274-1771



Providence, Rhode Island 02908  
Facsimile: 401-274-1789

May 15, 2024

Honorable Marvin Abney  
Chair  
House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island General Assembly  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Finance Committee:

Please accept the Rhode Island Health Center Association's letter of **support for House Bill 7398**.

We support Rhode Island's eight Community Health Centers. These health centers provide medical, dental, and behavioral health care to over 200,000 individuals; 55% of patients are enrolled in Medicaid, and 90% are at or below 200% of the poverty level. About 9% of the health centers' patients cannot access health insurance, some of them due to immigration status.

Our support of the bill recognizes that financing dialysis and kidney transplants for people who cannot access health insurance is both ethically and fiscally responsible.

The health care system currently incurs costs for the "emergency" dialysis provided for these individuals, at times for many years. This bill would ensure people are able to access the most appropriate care.

Thank you.

*Elena Nicoletta*

Elena Nicoletta President & CEO  
Rhode Island Health Center Association

The Rhode Island Health Center Association is proud to support:  
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