



February 28, 2024

Honorable Rep. Marvin Abney
Chair, House Finance Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly Providence, RI 02903

Re: **H 7225 Article 9**

Dear Chairperson Abney and Members of the Finance Committee:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Health Center Association (RIHCA), I am writing to **support** the spirit and intent of **Article 9, Section 5(c) Provider Reimbursement Rates**. Section 5(c) implements rate increases for several state-funded services at 1/3 the OHIC recommended increase. We applaud the inclusion of the rate increases and urge the Finance Committee to explore the potential of fully funding or accelerating the path to full funding.

We are supportive of the OHIC Social and Human Service Programs Review effort as it provides a transparent and reasonable rate-setting process for publicly-financed services.

We were disappointed that the Governor's FY 2025 Budget did not include funding for the State Health Professional Loan Repayment Program. The HPLRP is a proven and effective tool in recruiting and retaining a diverse primary healthcare workforce. The HPLRP rewards those providers who work in communities that have historically faced challenges to accessible and high quality primary health care services.

Thank you,

Elena Nicoletta

Elena Nicoletta
President and CEO

The Rhode Island Health Center Association proudly represents and supports:
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
WellOne Primary Medical and Dental Care ~ Wood River Health