



**Rhode Island Partnership  
for Home Care**

*Advancing quality healthcare at home*

April 30, 2025

**VIA EMAIL:** [housefinance@rilegislature.gov](mailto:housefinance@rilegislature.gov)

Hon. Marvin Abney, Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: Include House Bill 5774 into Proposed SFY26 Article 8 — Establish the Medicaid Home Care Rate Floor and Continue the Behavioral Health Training Program and Rate Enhancement**

Dear Chairman Abney,

On behalf of Medicaid-contracted home care providers, along with their staff, patients, clients and family caregivers, I express my strong support for House Bill 5774 by Chairwoman Patricia Serpa to establish Medicaid fee-for-service reimbursement rates set by the General Assembly as the rate floor for Medicaid managed care. You and your colleagues have made significant strides to raise rates for home care over the past several years. **The General Assembly should not be undermined by commercial health insurance companies participating as a Medicaid managed care organization (MCO) with contracted rates lower than the State's fee-for-service (FFS) rates and subsequently, lower wages for direct care and operations staff.** This critical legislation ensures that home care, home nursing care, and hospice providers licensed by the Department of Health receive fair and stable reimbursement rates, thereby enhancing the sustainability of these essential, cost-saving services.

House Bill 5774 also supports the continuation of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services's (EOHHS) behavioral health training program and rate enhancement for licensed nurse assistants (otherwise referred to as CNAs) and homemakers delivering paraprofessional care services to Medicaid home care beneficiaries. This was not a program in which any member of the industry requested. Rather, it was an academic venture proposed by EOHHS and Rhode Island College (RIC) and approved by the General Assembly four years ago. Now, the federal funding has expired and the appropriation will expire at the end of SFY25 for the \$1.56 per hour (\$0.39 per 15-minute unit) rate increase dedicated to the 600+ CNAs and homemakers that have completed the RIC certificate program. **If the funding is not continued into SFY26, home care's lowest wage workers will experience a \$1.56 per hour cut in their wage after June 30, 2025.** Instead, by continuing to strengthen workforce training and compensation for those that participate, this bill directly contributes to improving the quality and accessibility of home care for the growing population of Rhode Island's most vulnerable citizens with behavioral healthcare needs, such as Alzheimer's Disease, dementia, anxiety disorders, delirium and depression.

Ensuring that there will not be a cut to reimbursement rates for home care is a necessary step in stabilizing these services, addressing workforce shortages and guaranteeing that Medicaid beneficiaries receive high-quality healthcare in the most cost-effective setting. This bill will help home care providers retain

skilled professionals, reduce staff turnover and ultimately continue to improve patient and client outcomes.

My association and I appreciate your leadership in ensuring that our State's healthcare system remains responsive to the needs of all Rhode Islanders. Thank you for considering supporting Medicaid-contracted home care providers, along with their staff, patients, clients and family caregivers by including House Bill 5774 into the proposed SFY26 budget.

Sincerely,

*Nicholas Oliver*

Nicholas Oliver, MPA, CAE  
Executive Director

enc.: EOHHS Response to APRA Request 24-62

cc: Members, House Committee on Finance



Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Legal Office, Three West Road, Virks Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cranston, RI 02920  
phone: 401.462.1400 fax: 401.462.1678

January 2, 2025

**VIA EMAIL** – [director@riphc.org](mailto:director@riphc.org)

Nicholas Oliver, MPA, CAE  
Executive Director, Rhode Island Partnership for Home Care  
2400 Post Road  
Warwick, RI 02886

**Re: APRA Request 24-62**

Dear Mr. Oliver:

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (“EOHHS”) is in receipt of your request for public records submitted December 17, 2024, requesting:

*Total expenditure for the behavioral health training program by year over the life of the program for the training through Rhode Island College and separately for the home care CNA rate enhancement. RIGL § 40-8.9-9(g)(2).*

(“APRA Request”)

Attached please find documents responsive to your Access to Public Records Act Request. EOHHS does not have an existing record and/or computer printout that contains the total expenditure for the behavioral health home care rate enhancement. The behavioral health rate enhancement is applied to all home care claims submitted by qualifying home care agencies, rather than billed under a unique identifier or code. The development of such a responsive public record by EOHHS would take many hours and resources and would require the agency to reorganize, analyze, consolidate, and compile data into a report not currently maintained by EOHHS. Pursuant to R. I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-3(h), EOHHS is not required to reorganize, consolidate, and/ or compile data in a form not currently maintained by EOHHS. EOHHS’ creation of such a new record through data retrieval, matching and claims analysis to respond to this request would be unduly burdensome and is not considered a public record under R. I. Gen. Laws § 38-2-2(4).

Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 38-2-8, this decision can be appealed to Secretary Richard Charest who, for the purposes of such appeals, is the Chief Administrative Officer of EOHHS. The appeal should be sent to the attention of Secretary Richard Charest, EOHHS, Three West Road, 4th Floor, Cranston, RI 02920. Alternatively, if you wish, you can directly appeal this decision to the Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General, 150 South Main Street, Providence,



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RI 02903. Should you have any questions or concerns about this matter, please contact the Division of Legal Services at (401) 462-1400.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Jane E. Morgan /s/

Jane E. Morgan, Esq.  
Medicaid Deputy Director, Legal and Program Integrity



<u>Funding period</u>	<u>Contracting Agency</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024	DLT	HSTP	\$651,964
July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024	EOHHS	HCBS	\$120,000