

4/30/2025

Chairman Marvin Abney
House Finance Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Testimony in Support of House Resolution 5790

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Westerly Hospital and Yale New Haven Health, we are writing today in strong support of House Resolution 5790 (H 5790) legislation that would increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for physicians and advanced practice providers throughout Rhode Island.

Westerly Hospital has long been a trusted healthcare provider in Washington County for over 100 years and employs dedicated professionals who are committed to delivering quality, compassionate care to the residents of southern Rhode Island. However, sustaining access to that care is becoming increasingly difficult due to reimbursement and healthcare environment in the state.

Over half of Rhode Islanders already report difficulty accessing healthcare, whether due to long wait times or the inability to see needed specialists. The state's current Medicaid reimbursement rates are not only insufficient to cover the cost of care — they are contributing to a larger crisis in access. Low reimbursement levels prevent hospitals like Westerly Hospital from offering competitive compensation, making it harder to attract and retain the healthcare professionals that patients rely on. Even worse, physicians, nurses, and support staff are leaving Rhode Island for neighboring states, further straining the system.

This is not just a budget issue — it's a care issue. H 5790 offers a responsible and urgently needed response. By investing in our Medicaid program, the state can protect the health of its residents, support the frontline workforce, and ensure that care remains accessible across communities.

On behalf of Westerly Hospital and Yale New Haven Health, we respectfully urge the committee's and legislature's support for H 5790. Thank you for your leadership and for recognizing the importance of meaningful investment in Rhode Island's healthcare future.

Sincerely,

Carrie Kenyon, MHA, BSN, RN

Site Administrator, Westerly
Hospital

Executive Director, Ancillary &
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Hospital

Paul Mounds Jr.

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