

Chris O'Brien

From: Cristina Pacheco <cpacheco@BVCHC.ORG>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 4:57 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: BVCHC's opposition to Governor's Budget Amendment #13 to the FY 2026 Appropriations Act (25-H-5076)

May 7, 2025

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney

Chair, House Committee on Finance

Via: HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

Re: Governor's Budget Amendment #13 to the FY 2026 Appropriations Act (25-H-5076)

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee:

Blackstone Valley Community Health Care strongly opposes the Governor's Budget Amendment #13 because it imposes additional and unnecessary administrative burden on community health centers/federally qualified health centers (CHCs).

Along with seven other CHCs Blackstone provides high quality, comprehensive primary medical, behavioral, and dental care to over 200,000 Rhode Islanders. We are an integral component of the overall healthcare system and serve as the state's primary care safety net. Yet we, along with the rest of primary care in RI, are struggling.

This Amendment is an additional administrative burden at a time when reduced administrative burden is needed.

We agree with RIHCA's CEO Elena Nicolella that our experience reflects EOHHS' lack of willingness to respond appropriately when provided with information about a health care organization's financial risk, as evidenced by the denied rate review adjustments of our sister CHCs.

Additionally, it should be noted that *Anchor's closure was not related to imminent financial collapse*, but rather the retirement of many physicians and an inability to recruit replacements to our state given the poor reimbursement rates.

We are committed to working with the Governor and EOHHS to address the challenges facing our state's health care system. We acknowledge that transparency and accountability are necessary components of any response. We urge the General Assembly to maintain focus on concrete action, not process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Cristina Pacheco, MD
Chief Executive Officer
Blackstone Valley Community Health Care
39 East Ave
Pawtucket RI 02860

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY: This e-mail, including any attached files, may contain confidential and privileged information for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). Any review, use, distribution, or disclosure by unauthorized persons is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, or authorized to receive email on behalf of the intended recipient, please delete all copies of this email and contact the sender via reply e-mail. Thank you for your cooperation.