



May 7, 2025

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney

Chair, House Committee on Finance

*Via: [HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov](mailto: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:

As President and CEO of the state's largest community health center, I am writing to strongly **oppose** the Governor's Budget Amendment #13, which imposes additional and unnecessary administrative burden on community health centers/federally qualified health centers.

Last year, Providence Community Health Centers and five other community health centers in Rhode Island submitted comprehensive data to the state via the Executive Office of Health and Human Services in accordance with Medicaid guidelines in an attempt to increase our reimbursement. Despite the demonstration of clear need, EOHHS denied all six requests.

This amendment is a request for information that will in no way benefit health centers or our patients. We need action to support Rhode Island's community health centers, which provide care to 200,000 people in our state. Additional reporting requirements are not the answer. To the contrary, the introduction of increased administrative burdens at a time when community health centers are struggling will make our jobs even more difficult.

Thank you for your consideration.

Merrill Thomas

President and CEO

Providence Community Health Centers