



Howard Dulude  
Interim President

June 3, 2025

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
Chairman, House Committee on Finance  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Chairman Abney,

On behalf of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI), thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to improving our health care system during this unprecedented time. Rhode Island's health care system is in crisis, and we strongly support the General Assembly's efforts to increase investment in primary care and stabilize the provider workforce.

We respectfully write to express concern regarding **House Bill 6373**, which seeks to increase Medicaid reimbursement for primary care providers to 100% of Medicare rates. While well-intentioned, we believe that using **Rhode Island's current Medicare rates as the benchmark** will not achieve the bill's intended goal of attracting and retaining a strong primary care workforce.

Rhode Island's Medicare reimbursement rates are significantly lower—**20% to 30% below those in Massachusetts and Connecticut** and **providers are already leaving the state** for higher-paying opportunities across the border. Using Rhode Island's inadequate rates as the benchmark for Medicaid reimbursement risks falling short of what's needed to retain or attract providers. Simply matching Rhode Island's Medicare rates will not solve this problem.

We urge the committee to consider **a more competitive benchmark**—one that recognizes regional market dynamics and addresses the urgent need to recruit and retain physicians in Rhode Island. Without this adjustment, the state risks investing in a well-meaning solution that fails to deliver the intended results.

We appreciate your attention to this critical issue. HARI stands ready to work with the General Assembly, the Attorney General's Office, and other health care stakeholders to strengthen the state's health care delivery system for all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Tomasso", written in a cursive style.

Lisa P. Tomasso  
Senior Vice President