



February 3, 2026

Dear Chairman Abney and Members, House Finance Committee

Re: Support for H7408

I write on behalf of SACRI an organization whose mission is to mobilize people to implement an agenda that improves the quality of life of older Rhode Islanders and adults with disabilities. As a lead advocate for Rhode Island's older adults, SACRI strongly supports H7408, the legislation relating to revised appropriations for the FY 2026 budget relating to Roger Williams Medical Center and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital. The measure authorizes vital state financing to assist in the sale of these hospitals to Charter CARE Health of Rhode Island, Inc., helping ensure their continued operation and stability within our healthcare system.

These hospitals' emergency departments (EDs), in-patient services as well as Geri-Psych units are lifelines for thousands of older Rhode Islanders facing chronic conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and mobility and behavioral health challenges. Many low-income and under insured older adults in Providence and surrounding areas rely on these nearby ED's for urgent care, where delays could lead to severe outcomes. Preserving these facilities protects not just our state's capacity to provide healthcare but also jobs and community well-being amid our ever-growing aging population.

This targeted support, structured as a debt service reserve for bonds issued by the Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation, is a smart, low-risk investment which will ensure continuity of essential services and preserve 2,700 jobs through May 8, 2026, and beyond.

SACRI recognizes that this legislation is being proposed by both the Governor and Attorney General with the support of legislative leaders. We urge its swift passage to safeguard access to emergency and in-patient hospital services for Rhode Islanders and particularly for our older population.

Thank you for your consideration of SACRI's support.

Respectfully,

Carol Anne Costa, SACRI Executive Director