

February 3, 2026



RI Department of Health
Three Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5097

TTY: 771
www.health.ri.gov

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair
House Committee on Finance
State House
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: H 7408 – An Act Relating to Making Revised Appropriations in Support of FY 2026
Relating to Roger Williams Medical Center and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital and
Authorizing the State of Rhode Island to Provide Financing Support to Assist the Sale of the
Hospitals to Charter Care Health of Rhode Island, Inc.**

Dear Chair Abney:

Please accept this letter in support of H 7408, legislation that would authorize \$18 million in State funding as a credit enhancement to assist The Centurion Foundation, Inc. (Centurion) to secure the financing necessary to purchase Roger Williams Medical Center and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital and finalize their transaction.

Roger Williams Medical Center and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital are safety-net hospitals; critical to the communities they serve and to the broader healthcare landscape in Rhode Island. Together, these two hospitals account for 500 beds, provide essential behavioral health and cancer treatment services, accept 57,000 emergency room visits each year, and employ nearly 2,700 individuals. The hospitals' primary service area includes a population of approximately 519,000 residents, with a payer mix comprised of approximately 75% Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. Surrounding hospitals and healthcare facilities do not have the capacity to absorb such volume if these hospitals close.

By providing conditional financial assistance in the form of a debt service reserve account, H 7408 lends state support for the successful sale of the hospitals and therefore the continuum of care for Rhode Island residents. The Rhode Island Department of Health, and the Attorney General's Office, have conducted independent rigorous reviews of this conversion and have previously provided approval to the Centurion Foundation. A timely sale and transfer of these hospitals will preserve critical services, maintain access to emergency and inpatient care, and prevent potential service disruptions that could adversely affect Rhode Island communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this critically important public health legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jerome M. Larkin'.

Jerome M. Larkin, MD
Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy