



RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

Chairperson Marvin Abney
House Finance Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Support – H7408

February 3, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

The Rhode Island Medical Society supports legislative efforts to stabilize Roger Williams Medical Center and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital as essential community assets. The loss of either hospital would place significant pressure on remaining hospitals and further limit access to care for patients across the state, while also jeopardizing graduate medical education programs that are critical to training and retaining the next generation of physicians in Rhode Island.

As this legislation moves forward, ensuring the long-term viability of these hospitals requires attention not only to financing and operations, but also to preserving their role as training sites for residents and students, as well as addressing residual issues created by the bankruptcy process, including unresolved malpractice exposure.

Physicians and other healthcare professionals provided care in good faith and reasonably believed they were insured. Uncertainty around legacy malpractice exposure, if left unresolved, may undermine workforce stability and complicate the hospitals' ability to recruit and retain clinicians.

Given these concerns, it is important that any financing support include appropriate protections to address legacy malpractice exposure arising from the bankruptcy. Providing a clear, structured mechanism to ensure claims can be defended and resolved will protect patients, support the healthcare workforce, and help ensure these hospitals can continue operating as stable community and training assets.

RIMS respectfully urges the General Assembly to continue advancing this legislation with attention to safeguards that will support long-term stability and access to care.

Sincerely,

Dina Himelfarb, MD
President