



# 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 – Budget Article 11

March 4, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

The Rhode Island Medical Society appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on Budget Article 11 related to the Health Spending Accountability and Transparency Program (section 12 and 13) and the proposal concerning pharmacy benefit managers (section 1).

Physicians in Rhode Island have been engaged in the state's health care cost trends work since its inception through participation on the Cost Trends Steering Committee. That process has brought together providers, insurers, and policymakers to better understand the drivers of health care spending and identify strategies to improve affordability for Rhode Islanders while sustaining access to care.

The proposal before the Committee introduces two primary elements. First, it expands transparency around health care spending, including the potential for organizations involved in the health care system to be asked to explain their role in overall spending trends when cost growth targets are exceeded. RIMS supports efforts to increase transparency and improve understanding of the factors contributing to health care spending. Second, it establishes an advisory body that includes individuals outside the payer and provider communities to help inform this work. RIMS supports the creation of this advisory body and believes that including perspectives beyond payers and providers can help strengthen the state's understanding of health care spending while maintaining a collaborative approach among stakeholders.

As the state continues this work, it will be important that discussions of health care spending also reflect the actual cost of delivering care in physician practices. Physician practices across Rhode Island continue to face rising operating costs related to staffing, technology, regulatory compliance, and medical supplies. Incorporating recognized measures of health care inflation, such as the Medicare Economic Index, can help ensure that discussions of cost growth reflect the real economic pressures associated with operating medical practices.

RIMS also supports efforts to gather additional information regarding pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). Prescription drug spending remains one of the fastest growing components of health care costs, and improved transparency in this area will help inform future policy discussions.

RIMS appreciates the opportunity to continue participating in Rhode Island's efforts to better understand health care spending and looks forward to working with policymakers and other stakeholders as this work continues.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dina Himelfarb, MD  
President