



THE WARREN ALPERT  
**Medical School**  
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Rhode Island House of Representatives  
Chairman Marvin Abney  
House Finance Committee  
State House  
Providence, Rhode Island

March 18, 2026

RE: Support for Restoring Department of Health Funding for Tuberculosis (TB) Clinic

Chair Abney and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Curt Beckwith, and I am the Director of the Division of Infectious Diseases and Professor of Medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and Brown University Health in Providence, RI. I oversee the infectious diseases clinical services of Brown University Health, including the operation of the RISE Tuberculosis (TB) Clinic based at The Miriam Hospital. I am writing to urge the Committee to fully restore Rhode Island Department of Health funding for the RISE TB Clinic. This funding is vital to the operations of the clinic and fulfills a contract between the Rhode Island Department of Health and The Miriam Hospital for the provision of comprehensive TB clinical services for the entire state of RI. Without this funding, the contract will be void and these services will cease to exist, placing RI communities at considerable health risk.

The TB clinic provides specialized clinical expertise and treatment for adults and children with active TB infection. The clinic directly supports physicians, providers, hospitals, and community health programs across the state. Active tuberculosis treatment requires management of complex medication regimens, careful monitoring, treatment adherence, and intensive public health follow-up to ensure patients complete therapy which prevents further transmission of this contagious infection. The TB Clinic also conducts required TB screenings for children entering the Providence and Pawtucket school systems, screens persons entering the U.S. from other countries, and conducts assessments of persons exposed to TB.

The Committee needs to understand that if the Department of Health funding for the RISE TB Clinic is cut, there is no other alternative for comprehensive TB care in RI. There is no other healthcare organization or entity capable of providing the same level of care. Elimination of this funding will result in patients with active infection seeking care in emergency departments, urgent care centers, and health clinics, where other patients will be unnecessarily exposed to TB. Additionally, these sites lack the necessary expertise and infrastructure to safely treat and follow patients with TB and evaluate persons who may have been exposed. There are countless examples of TB resurgences following reduction or elimination of state or municipal funding for TB clinics – we do not want RI to be another example.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to restore Department of Health funding for the RISE TB clinic and ensure Rhode Island maintains the capacity to manage tuberculosis effectively and protect public health.

Sincerely,



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Curt G. Beckwith, MD, FIDSA, FACP  
Director, Division of Infectious Diseases  
Professor of Medicine