



15 LaSalle Square
Providence, RI 02903

To: House Committee on Finance
From: Brown University Health
Date: March 24, 2026
Subject: Concerns Regarding Recommended FY 2027 Budget - RIDOH

Dear Chairman Abney and members of the Finance Committee:

[Brown University Health](#) is Rhode Island's largest health system and its largest employer, serving patients across a comprehensive and integrated network of care. With over 1,620 patient care offices and locations, including our six hospitals in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, we are committed to delivering high-quality, patient-centered care in every community we serve. As a leading academic and clinical health system, we attract world-class physicians, researchers, and healthcare professionals, fostering innovation, advancing medical education, and ensuring access to cutting-edge treatments. Our health system plays a critical role in strengthening the region's healthcare infrastructure, driving economic growth, and improving the overall health and well-being of the populations we serve.

On behalf of Brown University Health, I write to express serious concern regarding the proposal to eliminate state funding for the Tuberculosis (TB) Clinic at The Miriam Hospital (TMH), and request that this funding is restored in the FY 27 budget. The proposed elimination of this funding poses an immediate and significant risk to the only dedicated TB clinic in Rhode Island and, by extension, to the State's broader public health infrastructure.

For more than 25 years, the TMH TB Clinic has served as Rhode Island's sole specialty site for the diagnosis, treatment, and management of both active tuberculosis disease and latent TB infectionⁱ. **The Rhode Island Department of Health directs all suspected and confirmed TB cases to this clinic, and there is no alternative specialty provider identified within the state. Every hospital and clinic in RI depends on TMH for their TB services.**

Each year, it handles roughly 1,000 referrals for active and latent TB. The centralized, expert care model provided by the TMH TB Clinic is essential to ensure timely treatment, preventing transmission, and safeguarding the public's health.

The proposed elimination of approximately \$315,000 in state support would have immediate and far-reaching consequences. These funds currently support critical clinic staffing and operations. Without them, the clinic's viability would be jeopardized, and its loss would also threaten its eligibility under the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program. Loss of 340B eligibility would significantly increase the cost of essential TB medications, creating substantial barriers to care for a vulnerable patient population and undermining treatment adherence—one of the cornerstones of TB control.

This proposal comes at a time of already heightened financial pressure on TB prevention and treatment efforts. Federal CDC funding to Rhode Island for TB control has been reduced by approximately 47% from 2025 to 2026 (\$127,610 in 2026 and \$242,637 in 2025ⁱⁱ), further constraining available resources.

Tuberculosis is a communicable disease that requires consistent, specialized, and well-coordinated care. Any disruption in services risks delayed diagnoses, incomplete treatment, and increased community transmission. **According to the CDC, TB response efforts yield \$40 in healthcare savings for every \$1 invested.**ⁱⁱⁱ The cost of addressing even a single outbreak would far exceed the modest state investment currently supporting the TB clinic.

Brown University Health respectfully urges the Committee to preserve funding for the TMH TB Clinic in the FY 2027 budget. Maintaining this investment is critical to protecting patient access to care, preserving essential public health infrastructure, and ensuring Rhode Island remains equipped to effectively prevent and control tuberculosis.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue and if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the work we are doing, please feel free to reach out to David Balasco, Vice President of Government Relations, DBalasco@BrownHealth.org.

Thank you,



David A. Balasco, Esq.

Vice President, Government Relations

Brown University Health

ⁱ <https://www.brownhealth.org/centers-services/infectious-diseases/outpatient-clinics/rise-clinic-tuberculosis-treatment>

ⁱⁱ [Award Information | HHS TAGGS](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ [2025 DGHT-TB-Overview-Factsheet](#)