



March 24, 2026

The Honorable Teresa Tanzi
Chair, House Finance, Subcommittee on Human Services
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H7127, Governor's FY 2027, FY 2026 Revised and Capital Budgets, Department of Health

Dear Chair Tanzi and Members of the Human Services Subcommittee:

My name is David Martins, and I am the Director of AIDS Project RI (APRI) at Family Service of Rhode Island. APRI provides HIV prevention, testing, and linkage to care services, including connections to PrEP and PEP, sexual health education, and condom distribution. APRI also supports people living with HIV through case management, housing navigation, and referrals to medical, behavioral health, and supportive services that help individuals remain healthy and stable.

I write today to make sure that Rhode Island continues to effectively combat HIV across our entire State. Currently, APRI's prevention work is funded through a RIDOH contract, however the fate of these dollars at the Federal level is currently tenuous. These dollars are vital to APRI because it supports HIV testing, prevention education, condom distribution, and linkage to PrEP and PEP, helping reduce new HIV transmissions across the state. This funding also strengthens APRI's ability to reach communities most affected by HIV, ensuring individuals can access timely information, early diagnosis, and connections to care that improve long-term health outcomes.

For FY27, I urge the State of Rhode Island to make a \$500,000 investment in HIV/STI Prevention and Education. This investment would strengthen Rhode Island's public health infrastructure, expand access to testing and PrEP, and ensure that community-based organizations can reach those most at risk with timely, evidence-based prevention services. With sustained commitment, Rhode Island can continue to reduce new infections, improve health outcomes, and move closer to ending the HIV epidemic in our state.

Sincerely,

David M. Martins
Director, AIDS Project Rhode Island
Family Service of Rhode Island