



# 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 – DOH budget funding restoration of TB clinic funds

March 4, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS), I am writing to urge the Committee to restore the \$315,000 in funding for the Department of Health Tuberculosis (TB) Clinic proposed for elimination in the Governor's budget.

The TB clinic is a critical component of Rhode Island's public health infrastructure. It provides specialized clinical expertise, care coordination, and support for physicians, hospitals, and community health programs across the state in managing both active and latent tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis is a complex infectious disease that requires careful monitoring, treatment adherence, and coordinated public health follow-up to ensure successful outcomes and prevent further transmission. This level of coordination cannot be easily replicated in individual practices, many of which are already operating at or beyond capacity.

The clinic also serves as an important resource for providers who may not have the experience or infrastructure to manage TB cases independently. Without this centralized expertise, responsibility for care would shift to community-based practices and hospital systems, creating additional strain and increasing the risk of delayed diagnosis, incomplete treatment, and broader public health consequences.

Even a single uncontrolled case of tuberculosis can have significant implications for patients, families, and the healthcare system, including the need for extensive contact tracing and costly interventions.

At a time when Rhode Island's healthcare system is already facing workforce shortages and capacity challenges, maintaining this clinic is essential to protecting both individual patients and the broader community.

For these reasons, RIMS strongly urges the Committee to restore funding for the TB clinic and ensure that Rhode Island maintains the capacity to effectively manage tuberculosis and safeguard public health.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dina Himelfarb, MD  
President