



March 24, 2026

Rhode Island House of Representatives
Chairman Marvin Abney
House Finance Committee
State House
Providence, Rhode Island
Send via email to HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

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

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the Committee:

I am honored to write this Testimony and support of funding for the Rhode Island Tuberculosis clinic at the Miriam Hospital.

I have lived and worked in Rhode Island since 1994. I am an infectious disease physician and very well aware of the potential danger to our community of untreated and uncontrolled tuberculosis.

Early in my medical training, as an intern, I had occupational exposure to tuberculosis and became infected. I was diagnosed and treated promptly and thankfully have remained healthy and never infected anyone else. However, were it not for the type of work that is routinely done by the heroic healthcare workers at the Rhode Island TB Clinic, things might have turned out very differently for me, my loved ones, and others I was in touch with, including patients.

When public health does its job correctly, no one knows that they are all the better for the work that is done. That is exactly the type of work that is done by this TB clinic. For this relatively small amount of money, they save a tremendous amount of pain, suffering, and death from happening to Rhode Islanders. This work cannot be effectively done by others. With national threats to public health in increasing under this current administration now is not the time to compromise this invaluable program in any way.

I strongly urge the Committee to restore funding for the Rhode Island Department of Health Tuberculosis (TB) Clinic

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josiah Rich".

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