

Rhode Island House of Representatives
Chairman Marvin Abney
House Finance Committee
State House
Providence, Rhode Island

March 22, 2026

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

Chair Abney and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kevin Gibas, and I am a current resident of Pawtucket, Rhode Island. I am writing in my capacity as a private citizen who is a practicing Infectious Diseases physician to urge the Committee to restore funding for the Rhode Island Department of Health Tuberculosis (TB) Clinic.

The TB Clinic provides specialized clinical expertise and coordination that supports physicians, hospitals, and community health programs across the state. As a practicing physician with board-certifications in both Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases, I cannot emphasize enough how critically important this clinic is for the public health of Rhode Islanders. Tuberculosis care requires careful monitoring, treatment adherence, and public health follow-up to ensure patients complete therapy and to prevent further transmission.

The TB Clinic plays an essential role in managing tuberculosis in Rhode Island by coordinating specialized care, monitoring treatment, and helping prevent the spread of this serious infectious disease. Eliminating funding for the TB Clinic would place additional strain on already overwhelmed health care providers and weaken our state's public health infrastructure.

Many primary care and specialty practices are already operating at capacity and could not absorb this burden of care if the TB Clinic were to lose funding. Preventing TB transmission proactively avoids costly hospitalizations and outbreak response. Even a single uncontrolled case of TB can create significant public health and financial consequences. It would be dangerous, irresponsible, and short-sighted to eliminate funding for the TB Clinic.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to restore funding for the TB Clinic and ensure Rhode Island maintains the capacity to manage TB effectively and protect public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin M. Gibas".

Kevin Gibas, MD, MPH
Pawtucket, Rhode Island