



The Miriam Hospital

**BROWN**Health  
UNIVERSITY

March 23, 2026

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

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

Chair Abney and Members of the Committee

I am Marguerite A. Neill MD, a member of Brown University Health, an Infectious Disease specialist and an Associate Professor of Medicine. I have diagnosed and cared for many patients with various forms of TB and was the editor of a special issue of the Rhode Island Medical Journal devoted to tuberculosis.

I am writing to urge the Committee to restore full funding of the RI DOH TB Clinic. The Clinic provides superb services and expertise to diverse populations in age and health status. They guide and support patients and families through treatment courses lasting months. Clinic personnel are exemplary providers, drawn to what they do with care and professionalism. Their work is foundational in public health as TB control programs are a core, mandated function of state health departments.

The RI TB Clinic works closely with the RI DOH and they have stopped chains of TB transmission many times, including among children and pregnant women. There is no freestanding entity in the state that can independently perform at the same level. Eliminating funding for the TB Clinic will spin off many undesirable outcomes, including missed diagnoses, inadequate prevention, erratic treatment that can lead to drug resistant tuberculosis, disjointed followup, and ongoing transmission. All these will end up costing many multiples of the budget of the TB Clinic and leave a legacy of poor outcomes.

A few years ago, I saw a young woman as an inpatient with fever, cough and a highly abnormal CAT scan of the chest, very suspicious for TB. I learned her 2 wk old baby was at home with her husband. Possible TB transmission to a baby is a medical emergency as it can result in TB meningitis. I immediately contacted the RI DOH and the husband, and that evening he brought the baby to Hasbro for testing and treatment. The TB Clinic managed treatment of the mother and baby and appropriate testing of the father. All family members had good outcomes and disaster was averted.

I respectfully urge the Committee to restore funding for the TB Clinic to protect public health.

Sincerely,  
Marguerite A. Neill MD