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March 25, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chair, House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street, Providence RI 02903

Re: Support Governor's FY2027 Budget (HJR 7127), Article 1, Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Dear Chair Abney and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Protect Our Healthcare Coalition is a group of leading Rhode Island nonprofit organizations and consumer groups with a shared mission to protect, improve, and expand equitable access to quality, person-centered, affordable health care for all.

The Coalition respectfully submits testimony in **strong support** for the one-time allocation of \$600,000 for **Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE)** and funding for **50% of the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC)-recommended Medicaid rate increases for Early Intervention and Family Home Visiting programs.**

The funding for PPSNE will cover the cost of necessary preventive care, including cancer screenings, sexually transmitted infections (STI) testing and treatment, and contraception. This state funding is especially necessary since PPSNE continued to provide these necessary preventative services, even as patients enrolled in Medicaid were unable to use their insurance at PPSNE due to a provision in the federal H.R. 1 law passed last summer. PPSNE served nearly **10,000 patients** last year in Rhode Island. This funding is an **economic, racial, and gender justice issue**: over 20% of PPSNE Rhode Island patients last year were insured through Medicaid, nearly half identified as people of color, and 89% identified as women. PPSNE is an essential part of our state's preventative healthcare infrastructure.

The Coalition thanks the Governor for partially funding the OHIC-recommended Medicaid rate increases for Family Home Visiting and Early Intervention programs. These **evidence-based** programs provide critical services to families with high needs and connect them with services and to infants and toddlers with disabilities under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, respectively. The Coalition **respectfully requests that the Committee increase the Medicaid rates for these programs to the OHIC-recommended rates** to address financing and staffing issues so that all Rhode Island families who need these services can access them.

Access to reproductive healthcare and preventative services remain essential in Rhode Island, and we urge the Committee to support the budget allocation for PPSNE and the Medicaid rate increases to ensure patients and families can access providers and services they trust and need.

Thank you for your consideration, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Alexandra Steinberg
Coordinator, Protect Our Healthcare Coalition

Protect Our Healthcare Coalition partners include: Economic Progress Institute, RIPIN, Mental Health Association RI, RI Health Center Association, Latino Policy Institute, United Way of Rhode Island, Senior Agenda Coalition RI, RI Medical Society, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, SEIU Rhode Island Council, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Blood Cancer United, RI Coalition for the Homeless, Rhode Island Working Families Party, Mental Health Recovery Coalition, RI Community Food Bank, RI Psychological Association, Substance Use & Mental Health Leadership Council, Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families, HousingWorks RI, Rhode Island Organizing Project (RIOP), National Association of Social Workers RI Chapter, The Womxn Project, Advocates for Better Care
