



Michael Sroczynski  
President

March 25, 2026

The Honorable Teresa Tanzi  
Chair, House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: H.7127- **Support for Volunteer Guardianship Program Funding – Office of Healthy Aging**

Dear Chair Tanzi,

On behalf of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) and our member hospitals, I am writing to express support for the Office of Healthy Aging's request for \$93,058 in general revenue funding for the Volunteer Guardianship Program.

This program serves older adults who lack decision-making capacity and do not have an available surrogate—patients who often require complex care coordination and discharge planning.

Timely access to guardianship services is critical to hospital throughput. Hospitals across Rhode Island regularly face delays in discharging patients who are medically ready to leave but cannot do so without a legally authorized decision-maker. As a result, patients remain in the hospital longer than clinically necessary, limiting bed availability, contributing to emergency department crowding, and placing additional strain on staff and resources.

The Volunteer Guardianship Program directly addresses this barrier by ensuring appropriate decision-makers are in place to support timely care transitions. Strengthening this program will help reduce avoidable delays, improve patient flow, and support placement in the most appropriate setting.

This is a targeted, practical investment that supports both patient well-being and healthcare system efficiency. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of programs that strengthen Rhode Island's healthcare system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Tomasso", written over a horizontal line.

Lisa P. Tomasso  
Senior Vice President