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The Honorable Marvin Abney  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
House Finance Committee  
(Submitted electronically via [HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov))

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee:

Please accept the Rhode Island Health Center Association's letter of **support** for **House Bill 7795**, which would make services provided by graduate student interns who work under a supervisory protocol eligible to be paid from Medicaid reimbursement.

Rhode Island's eight community health centers provide medical, behavioral, and dental care for over 220,000 individuals, regardless of their ability to pay. Providing over 138,000 behavioral health patient visits, health centers' mental health professionals play a vital role in ensuring access to care. They also serve as vital clinical training sites, helping to develop a sustainable pipeline of future behavioral health providers.

Currently, clinical training sites often lack the resources to support behavioral health professional graduate student interns, limiting the pipeline of qualified providers. Investing in training opportunities would not only address this bottleneck but also help retain emerging behavioral health professionals, strengthening the state's long-term workforce capacity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*M Campbell*

Melissa Campbell  
Policy Manager

Rhode Island Health Center Association members include:  
Blackstone Valley Community Health Care Inc. ~ Comprehensive Community Action Program  
East Bay Community Action Program ~ Providence Community Health Centers  
Thundermist Health Center ~ Tri-County Community Action Agency  
WellOne Primary Medical and Dental Care ~ Wood River Health