



**HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES COALITION**  
**OF RHODE ISLAND**

May 5, 2026

The Honorable Marvin Abney  
Chair, House Committee on Finance  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**Testimony in Strong Support of H 8183**

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Health and Human Services (HHS) Coalition write together in strong support of **H 8183**, which would require the FY 2027 state budget to include the additional \$117.6 million (\$46.4 million from general revenues) needed to fully fund the rate increase recommended by the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) as part of its September 2025 Social and Human Services Rate Review.

Our coalition spans every corner of the state's human services safety net: disability services, mental health, substance use treatment, services for older adults, child and family services, and community health centers.

We come from different fields, but we serve the same Rhode Islanders: the senior who can stay in her own home because a home health aide arrives every morning; the family navigating a child's behavioral health crisis; the adult with an intellectual disability who clocks in at a job he loves; the new parent receiving home visits to help her son meet early developmental milestones; the neighbor in recovery who finally found a community-based program that fits his life. Together, our members support tens of thousands of Rhode Islanders, employ thousands of frontline workers, and operate in every community in the state.

We thank the General Assembly for the leadership it showed in 2022 when it enacted the Social and Human Services Programs Rate Review and Rate Setting Process Act, and again in FY 2025 when it fully funded the first round of OHIC's recommendations. That funding worked. Across our sectors, vacancies declined, wages rose, turnover slowed, and waitlists shrank. Rhode Islanders received services more reliably than they had in a generation.

Today, we are at risk of losing those gains. Costs have continued to climb. The most recent workforce data already shows vacancies and rejected referrals trending back up. The OHIC rate



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review process has produced a second set of rigorous, evidence-based recommendations to keep pace with reality. Funding only half of those recommendations, as the Governor's proposed budget does, is not fiscal restraint; it is a quiet retreat from the commitment the legislature made in 2022.

H 8183 brings Rhode Island back to the standard the General Assembly set for itself. It draws down approximately \$71 million in federal Medicaid match that would otherwise go unused. It generates an estimated \$2.33 in state economic activity for every \$1 invested. And it sustains the workforce that cares for our most vulnerable neighbors, in every one of Rhode Island's 39 cities and towns.

Most importantly, H 8183 protects the Rhode Islanders who rely on us. Adequate rates determine whether a Direct Support Professional shows up tomorrow morning; whether a family in crisis finds a residential placement instead of an emergency room; whether a senior remains at home rather than in a nursing facility; whether a child receives early intervention services on time, when they will make the biggest difference. When rates fail, the people we serve are the ones who pay the cost.

We respectfully urge the House Finance Committee to advance H 8183 and to fully fund the FY 2027 OHIC rate review recommendations.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your continued partnership.

Respectfully,

Community Provider Network of Rhode Island  
Horizon Healthcare Partners  
Mental Health Association of Rhode Island  
Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families  
Rhode Island Health Center Association  
RIPIN  
Senior Agenda Coalition of Rhode Island  
Substance Use and Mental Health Leadership Council of Rhode Island