

May 05, 2026

House Committee on Finance
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support – House Bill 8183 - AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT --THE RHODE ISLAND HEALTH CARE REFORM ACT OF 2004 -- HEALTH INSURANCE OVERSIGHT

Dear Chairman Abney and Finance Committee Members,

My name is Jacob Auslander, and I am the Director Business of Operations at Maxim Healthcare at our Providence location (“Maxim”). Maxim is a national provider of home health care services and we primarily provide Private Duty Nursing services (PDN) throughout Rhode Island. Private duty nursing is continuous skilled nursing care provided in the home for medically-complex and vulnerable pediatric and adult patient populations under Medicaid, many of whom require assistive technology such as ventilators and tracheostomies to sustain life.

Maxim supports the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner’s (OHIC) rate recommendations for Medicaid provider reimbursement rates especially for PDN. Maxim supports the rate recommendations for certified nursing assistants (S5125), registered nurses (T1000), and licensed practical nurses (T1000 TE) procedure codes provided in OHIC’s September Final Report¹. I am testifying today to request that the committee include 100% of OHIC’s rate recommendations to the state’s budget for the procedure codes stated.

Our neighboring states have been investing in home health care by increasing the reimbursement rates to compare with hospitals and long-term care facilities. When there are sufficient reimbursement rates, providers are able to bring on more patients and secure adequate staffing. These updated rates would allow us to continue to compete with other states, provide a living wage to our specially trained nursing workforce and caregivers, and other expenses toward the total cost to deliver care at home. When the state invests in home health care, patients are able to access care in their home with family rather being away from them in a more expensive setting like a facility or hospital.

Thank you for your support of home health care.

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1. 2025 Social and Human Service Programs Review Final Report, <https://ohic.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur736/files/2025-08/2025%20Social%20and%20Human%20Service%20Programs%20Review%20Final%20Report%20August%2029%202025.pdf>