



RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

Chairperson Marvin Abney
House Finance Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support for Governor's Budget Amendment #16 – Restoration of Funding for the Rhode Island Tuberculosis Clinic

May20, 2026

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS), representing physicians across the state, we respectfully urge your support for Governor's Budget Amendment #16 to restore funding for the Rhode Island Tuberculosis (TB) Clinic.

The TB Clinic plays a critical role in protecting public health in Rhode Island. Tuberculosis remains a serious infectious disease requiring specialized clinical expertise, coordinated public health oversight, ongoing monitoring, and timely intervention to prevent transmission and ensure appropriate treatment adherence. While Rhode Island may not experience high overall case numbers compared to larger states, maintaining infrastructure and clinical capacity for TB prevention and treatment remains essential.

The clinic serves as an important statewide resource for patients, healthcare providers, hospitals, and public health officials. It supports early diagnosis, contact tracing, treatment coordination, and management of both active and latent tuberculosis infections, particularly for vulnerable and medically complex populations. The loss or reduction of these services would create significant gaps in Rhode Island's infectious disease preparedness and response capacity.

At a time when global travel and population mobility continue to increase, maintaining strong infectious disease infrastructure is more important than ever. Rhode Island's healthcare system depends on coordinated partnerships between public health agencies, hospitals, physicians, and community providers to identify and respond to infectious diseases quickly and effectively. Importantly, investing in TB prevention and treatment is also fiscally responsible. Early identification and treatment of tuberculosis helps avoid significantly higher downstream healthcare costs associated with hospitalizations, outbreaks, emergency response efforts, and advanced disease.

RIMS strongly believes that preserving access to specialized TB services is essential to protecting both individual patients and the broader Rhode Island community. We respectfully urge the Committee to support Governor's Budget Amendment #16 and ensure the continuation of these critical public health services.

Thank you for your consideration and continued commitment to protecting the health of Rhode Islanders.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dina Himelfarb, MD
President