



Michael Sroczynski
President

May 20, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chairperson, House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: Support for GBA #16 SNF Rate Enhancement for Complex Behavioral Health Patients

Dear Chairperson Abney,

On behalf of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) and our member hospitals, I write in support of GBA #16, which includes a \$0.4 million appropriation to support a skilled nursing facility rate enhancement program for patients with complex behavioral health needs.

This investment would help address a persistent barrier to hospital discharge for patients who meet nursing facility level of care but require placement options able to serve individuals with more complex behavioral health needs. Expanding appropriate post-acute capacity through this rate enhancement would improve patient flow, reduce unnecessary delays in discharge, and better align patients with the most appropriate level of care.

GBA #16 is also consistent with H.8205, introduced by Representative Casey, which HARI previously supported as a more flexible and clinically grounded approach to improving access for patients whose complex behavioral health needs create barriers to nursing facility placement.

Support for this proposal would strengthen care transitions, promote more efficient use of hospital capacity, and help ensure that patients receive care in the most appropriate setting. For these reasons, HARI respectfully urges support of this proposed investment.

HARI appreciates this committee's continued focus on improving access to care and strengthening appropriate placement options for complex behavioral health patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Tomasso", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Lisa P. Tomasso
Senior Vice President