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April 4, 2024

Hon. Susan Donovan
Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services
c/o HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H-8072-An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government—The Rhode Island Healthcare Reform Act

Dear Chair Donovan,

BuildRI is a domestic non-profit trade association comprised of four (4) contractor associations (the Labor Relations Division of the RI Chapter of the Associated General Contractors, the New England Mechanical Contractors' Ass'n, the RI Mason Contractors' Ass'n, and the RI and Southeast MA Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors' Ass'n), and seventeen (17) Local Trade Unions comprised of approximately 10,000 local tradesmen and women. On behalf of our organization, we write to **OPPOSE** the above referred to legislation for the reasons that follow.

This legislation requires commercial insurance payments to hospitals and providers increase to a regional average of rates paid in Rhode Island as well as nearby Massachusetts and Connecticut, as opposed to how these rates are currently determined now-just the Rhode Island marketplace.

Artificially modifying existing local market conditions in order to attain a certain result (i.e. increase payments to hospitals and providers) for no apparent public policy benefit will create a shock to local market conditions. Such an unnecessary change will create significant uncertainty to the market generally and specifically with our union healthcare trust funds. Clearly, such a change will result in premium increases to our trust funds, that in many instances will simply be unaffordable. Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons we oppose the above referred to legislation. Thank you for your attention to this matter, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Michael F. Sabitoni in blue ink.

Michael F. Sabitoni
Vice-Chair

Handwritten signature of Gregory A. Mancini in blue ink.

Gregory A. Mancini
Executive Director