



Howard M. Dulude  
Interim President

June 5, 2025

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.  
Chairman, House Committee on Judiciary  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Chairman Craven:

On behalf of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI), I write to respectfully express our opposition to **House Bill 6369**.

While we share the Attorney General's commitment to protecting patient safety and ensuring responsible hospital governance, this legislation grants the Office of the Health Care Advocate broad, vague authority to petition the Superior Court for the immediate appointment of a receiver over a hospital. The criteria outlined in the bill—terms such as “mismanagement,” and “severe financial distress,”—lack clear definitions and objective thresholds. In fact, these are conditions that many hospitals are navigating daily due to chronic underfunding and systemic challenges — not due to negligence or wrongdoing.

If enacted, this legislation could have **serious and unintended consequences**:

- It may undermine existing governance and fiduciary oversight structures by allowing **premature state intervention without due process**.
- It creates significant uncertainty for hospitals already operating under extreme financial strain, potentially **destabilizing access to care** and disrupting workforce and vendor relationships.
- It could **deter necessary investment, partnerships, or restructuring efforts** out of concern for abrupt legal intervention.

Rhode Island's hospital community is committed to transparency, accountability, and the delivery of high-quality care. We respectfully request that the committee oppose this legislation and instead work collaboratively with hospitals, regulators, and advocates to develop a more balanced approach that protects patients while also ensuring clarity, fairness, and due process.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with this committee to strengthen the Rhode Island healthcare system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Tomasso", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Lisa P. Tomasso  
Senior Vice President