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ACLU OF RI POSITION: SUPPORT

TESTIMONY ON 26-H 8139, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT – OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES March 4, 2026

The ACLU of Rhode Island is supportive of this legislation which expands Medicaid coverage for treatment of end stage renal disease and kidney transplants to undocumented individuals. As a general and humane principle, we believe that the availability of emergency and critical medical care should be dispensed on a nondiscriminatory basis, regardless of one's immigration status.

No Rhode Islander should have to fear that their emergency medical treatment will not be covered, or perhaps even decide to forego any attempt to receive emergency treatment, because of their immigration status. This bill is, at its core, about ensuring equity in care and seeking to mitigate needless suffering solely because of a person's immigration status.

For these reasons, we support this legislation. Thank you for your consideration.