



Rhode Island Hospital

BROWNHealth
UNIVERSITY

Outpatient Dialysis

117 Chapman Street
Suite 110
Providence, RI 02905

Tel 401 444-4440
Fax 401 785-1517

March 4, 2026

Dear Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in support of House Bill Number H8139.

My name is Susie Hu. I have been a practicing physician in Rhode Island for the past twenty-three years. I am Professor of Medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and the Director of the Division of Kidney Disease and Hypertension for Brown Medicine, now Brown University Health. As a kidney disease specialist, I have cared for patients with kidney disease at Rhode Island Hospital, the Miriam Hospital, Kent Hospital, and the Providence Veterans Affairs Medical Center. We care for hundreds (close to 350) of patients with end-stage kidney disease who receive dialysis at centers around the state, Providence, East Providence, North Providence, and Warwick, Rhode Island.

For our undocumented patients, we have made dialysis available to them. Even though dialysis is a life-saving treatment for end-stage kidney disease (ESKD), it is an all-consuming and burdensome therapy to our patients who have this devastating disease. And even with this treatment, ESKD patients on dialysis have mortality the same as those with cancer.

I have been fortunate to be able to bring many of my patients with advanced kidney disease to kidney transplantation. Kidney transplantation not only saves and prolongs life, but it is a transformative treatment. It improves survival compared to dialysis and allows patients to remain productive and contributing members of society. Moreover, transplantation in comparison to dialysis is cost saving. Bill H8139 will allow for Rhode Island Medicaid program to cover kidney transplantation in this population.

This issue is personal to me— That is because not only am I a physician, but I am an immigrant who grew up in Rhode Island, attended Middle school at Lincoln Jr. High, Hugh B. Bain Middle School, and graduated from Cranston High School East. I was fortunate to have resources to become a naturalized US citizen. Not everyone is so lucky. But with H8139, there will be someone out there who lives in Rhode Island, who will benefit from H8139 and give back to our community and our state of Rhode Island.

Please give this opportunity to our neighbors and friends. I urge members of the legislature to support House Bill H8139.

Susie L. Hu, MD