

April 22, 2025

Honorable Evan P. Shanley  
House Committee on State Government & Elections  
State House, Room 135  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

**RE: H-5877 – AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC RECORDS -- ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS**

Dear Chairperson Shanley:

I am writing today to express concern regarding House Bill 5877 – An Act Relating to Public Records – Access to Public Records. This legislation would allow electronically stored public records in a computer storage system to be provided at no charge upon request.

HealthSource RI (HSRI) fully supports government transparency and access to public records for the citizens of Rhode Island. While we acknowledge that this bill aims to enhance government transparency, we believe the current Access to Public Records Act (APRA) already provides significant transparency and promotes open government while balancing the interests of taxpayers. Reasonable fees can help deter requests that are overly broad, repetitive, or unduly burdensome. Imposing reasonable fees may also encourage requesters to engage in a productive dialogue with the requisite agency, often leading to a narrower request and more responsive result.

The result of this proposed legislation may ultimately hinder government efficiency and services, require additional resources, and increase the burden on taxpayers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,



Lindsay M. Lang, J.D.  
Director, HealthSource RI

cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government & Elections  
Honorable Stephen M. Casey  
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House