



February 3, 2026

Dear Chairman Donovan and Members, House Health and Human Services Committee

Re: Support for H7407

I write on behalf of SACRI an organization whose mission is to mobilize people to implement an agenda that improves the quality of life of older Rhode Islanders and adults with disabilities. As a lead advocate for Rhode Island's older adults, SACRI is concerned with the circumstances surrounding Roger Williams Medical Center and Fatima Hospitals. The current owner, Prospect Medical Holdings, filed for bankruptcy in federal bankruptcy court in Texas last year and the Texas court approved the sale of the hospitals to the Centurion Foundation. However, to date, Centurion has not been able to close the deal. In the event the deal is not closed and alternate proposals from new prospective buyers of the hospitals come forward this legislation would allow for expedited review under the provisions of the Hospital Conversions Act.

SACRI strongly supports H7407 to authorize the attorney general and the department of health to permit filing of an initial application for conversion in accordance with the expedited provisions found in law for a hospital subject to court-supervised insolvency proceedings including bankruptcy, receivership or special mastership.

Roger Williams Medical Center and Fatima Hospitals' emergency departments (EDs), in-patient services as well as Geri-Psych units are lifelines for thousands of older Rhode Islanders facing chronic conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and mobility and behavioral health challenges. Many low-income and under insured older adults in Providence and surrounding areas rely on these nearby ED's for urgent care, where delays could lead to severe outcomes. Preserving these facilities whether through the financial mechanisms contained in H7408 or by authorizing expedited reviews for any potential new owners will protect our state's healthcare system and the thousands of jobs that contribute to our economy and well-being of our community.

SACRI recognizes that this legislation is being proposed by both the Governor and Attorney General with the support of legislative leaders. We urge swift passage to safeguard access to emergency and in-patient hospital services for Rhode Islanders and particularly for our ever-growing older population.

Thank you for your consideration of SACRI's support.

Respectfully,
Carol Anne Costa, SACRI Executive Director