



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

February 3, 2026

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
Chair, House Committee on Health and Human Services
Room 101, Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: H-7407 – *An Act Relating to Health and Safety -- The Hospital Conversions Act*

Dear Chair Donovan:

I write to highlight the importance of H 7407, An Act Relating to Health and Safety -- The Hospital Conversions Act (the Act) that was submitted at my request and that of the Attorney General. This Act allows hospital conversions subject to court-supervised insolvency proceedings to undergo expedited regulatory review at the discretion of the Department of Health (RIDOH) and the Attorney General.

As you know, Roger Williams Medical Center and Fatima Hospital – critical safety-net hospitals – are financially distressed and currently subject to bankruptcy proceedings. With approval in place from RIDOH and the Attorney General pursuant to the HCA, the bankruptcy court authorized the sale of the hospitals to the Centurion Foundation in February 2025. Recently, Centurion's leadership informed the State that they have verbal financing commitments sufficient to close on the purchase and acquire the hospitals by February 27, 2026. Nevertheless, the criticality of these community hospitals requires state leadership to be prepared with solutions and contingency plans that will ensure the safe transfer of the hospitals, keeping them open and thriving in all circumstances.

To that end, after a series of strategy sessions on this issue, last Thursday, I announced, along with the Attorney General, Speaker Shekarchi, and President Lawson, a collection of actions designed to facilitate multiple near-term options for the transfer and continued operation of these hospitals, which are crucially important to the people served in and around Providence, North Providence, and beyond; to the hospitals' 2,700 employees; and to maintaining the stability of Rhode Island's broader healthcare system. This Act represents one such option, allowing RIDOH and the Attorney General to rapidly vet any future alternative acquiror, should that need arise. In addition to this Act, and consistent with the bankruptcy court's order of last Thursday, RIDOH and the Attorney General will

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be performing an advance review of alternative potential applicants willing to acquire the hospitals so that any future alternative acquiror is strongly positioned to move quickly to the HCA process. While I am hopeful that Centurion will be able to close this deal, it is the State's responsibility to prepare for all eventualities and to protect patients, workers, and health services.

I strongly urge the Committee to advance this legislation to protect the stability of Rhode Island's healthcare system and Rhode Islanders' access to essential medical services. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. McKee
Governor

CC: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services
Honorable Jacquelyn M. Baginski
Nicole McCarty, Esq.