



RI Department of Health  
Three Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908-5097

TTY: 771  
[www.health.ri.gov](http://www.health.ri.gov)

February 3, 2026

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan, Chair  
House Committee on Health and Human Services  
State House  
82 Smith St.  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: H 7407 – An Act Related to Health and Safety – The Hospital Conversions Act**

Dear Chair Donovan:

Please accept this letter in support of H 7407, legislation that would amend the *Hospital Conversions Act* (HCA) to authorize the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) and the Rhode Island Attorney General to permit the filing of an initial application for a conversion pursuant to the expedited review provisions of § 23-17.14-12.1 for a hospital subject to court-supervised insolvency proceedings. This act includes a sunset provision of one year, except that the sunset provision shall not inhibit review by either department for any application that was filed on or before the sunset date.

This legislation is proposed in response to the status of bankruptcy proceedings affecting the ownership and continued operation of the Rhode Island Medical Center and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital. In the event that the buyer of those hospitals previously authorized by the bankruptcy court is unable to close by February 27, state regulators will need to be immediately prepared to undertake regulatory review of any potential alternative buyer. H 7407 allows RIDOH and the Attorney General to authorize an expedited HCA review process while maintaining the requirements of the HCA and the important public policy goals those requirements serve.

Roger Williams Medical Center and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital are critical safety-net hospitals; critical to the communities they serve and to the broader healthcare landscape in Rhode Island. H 7407 supports the continuum of care for Rhode Island residents. These residents rely, or may need to rely on, Roger Williams Medical Center and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital. Further, H 7407 allows for the preservation of critical hospital services, maintaining access to emergency and inpatient care, and preventing potential service disruptions that could adversely affect Rhode Island communities.

Together, these two hospitals account for 500 beds, provide critical behavioral health and cancer treatment services, accept 57,000 emergency room visits each year, and employ nearly 2,700 individuals. The hospitals' primary service area includes a population of approximately 519,000 residents, with a payer mix comprised of approximately 75% Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. Surrounding hospitals and healthcare facilities do not have the capacity to absorb such volume if these hospitals close. This legislation, therefore, would help to sustain operations that result in continued access to critical medical services.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this critically important public health legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jerome M. Larkin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Jerome M. Larkin, MD  
Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services  
The Honorable Jacquelyn Baginski  
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel  
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy