



Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services
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February 3, 2026

Honorable Susan R. Donovan, Chairperson
House Committee on Health & Human Services
Room 101 State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: 2026 H-7407- An Act Relating to Health and Safety - The Hospital Conversions Act

Dear Chairperson Donovan:

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) supports **2026 H-7407, An Act Relating to Health and Safety - The Hospital Conversions Act**, which authorizes the Rhode Island Department of Health and the Attorney General to conduct an expedited review of a conversion application when a court-supervised insolvency proceeding is underway. The EOHHS is aware that the purpose of this legislation is to facilitate the timely sale and continued operations of Our Lady of Fatima Hospital and Roger Williams Medical Center, both of which are financially distressed under their current ownership.

The EOHHS is confident that the language in this legislation, if passed, would preserve the rigor and integrity of the initial conversion application review process while, at the same time, assuring that a proposed transaction to acquire the hospitals will move at a swifter pace with the potential to forestall closure or an interruption in operations if the sale is approved. The language of the legislation, if passed, would also sunset after one year and is sufficiently narrow in scope and time limited. Therefore, this legislation would serve the public interest in this specific instance without fundamentally altering the goals of the Hospital Conversions Act.

The EOHHS is committed to ensuring that all Rhode Islanders, regardless of income, have access to the hospital services they need to maintain their health and promote wellness. Both Our Lady of Fatima and Roger Williams play a critical role in ensuring this access to our state's health care system. Preserving critical hospital services, maintaining access to emergency and inpatient care, and preventing potential service disruptions remain our priority. This legislation has the potential to facilitate the acquisition of the hospitals by a qualified buyer who still must demonstrate that they have the financial and administrative resources necessary to stabilize the facilities now and into the future.

Regards,

Richard R. Charest, R.Ph., MBA
Secretary, RI Executive Office of Health and Human Services

CC: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services
Honorable Jacqueline M. Baginski
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker