



INTEGRA COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK

Integra Community Care Network, 171 Service Avenue, Warwick, RI 02886

integracare.org

To: House Committee on Health and Human Services
From: Care New England Health System
Date: March 12, 2026
Subject: **Support for H 7485**

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

Care New England (CNE) Health System is a trusted, integrated health care organization that fuels the latest advances in medical research, attracts the nation's top specialty-trained doctors, features nationally recognized services and cutting-edge programs, and engages in the important discussions people need to have about their health. CNE is helping to transform the future of health care, providing a leading voice in the ongoing effort to ensure the health of the individuals and communities we serve. With over 8,000 employees throughout Rhode Island, we are the fourth-largest employer and second-largest health system in the Ocean State.

My name is Ana Tuya Fulton and I am a geriatrician by training, now serving as CNE's Chief Population Health Officer and I am also the President & COO of CNE's Accountable Care Organization, Integra.. **On behalf of CNE and Integra, I am writing to you today with my full support of House Bill H 7485** and would like to thank Rep. Spears for her efforts in highlighting the importance of community paramedicine.

Passing H 7485 would significantly improve patient access to innovative, community-based healthcare services that help patients receive the right care in the right setting. H 7485 requires health insurers to cover and reimburse emergency medical services for community paramedicine and mobile integrated healthcare programs, ensuring that patients can receive treatment and care coordination outside of traditional hospital settings.

By supporting these services, H 7485 strengthens care delivery models that focus on prevention, early intervention, and addressing unmet health needs before they escalate into emergencies. This is crucial in a state with primary care access challenges and a growing aging population.

Kent Hospital and CNE have already seen the value of these programs in improving patient outcomes and reducing unnecessary hospital utilization. Through partnerships with local EMS agencies and programs such as Integra at Home, community paramedicine teams can provide in-home monitoring, follow-up care after hospital discharge, and support for patients with chronic conditions. These services help prevent avoidable emergency department visits and hospital readmissions while allowing patients (particularly older adults and medically complex individuals) to receive care safely in their homes.

Ensuring sustainable reimbursement for these services will allow healthcare providers and EMS agencies to expand these programs and reach more patients who would benefit from them. By integrating paramedicine services with physicians, nurses, and community health teams, Rhode Island can build a more coordinated and patient-centered healthcare system. Ultimately, H 7485 supports improved access, better health outcomes, and more efficient use of healthcare resources across the state.



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On behalf of CNE, I urge the committee to pass H 7485 as it represents an important step toward modernizing and strengthening Rhode Island's healthcare system. If you have any questions or would like to learn about the work we are doing, I'd be happy to follow up with you at AFulton@CarcNE.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ana Tuya Fulton", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ana Tuya Fulton, MD, MBA
President & COO – Integra Community Care Network, LLC
Chief Population Health Officer – Care New England