



**Rhode Island Partnership
for Home Care**

Advancing quality healthcare at home

April 9, 2026

VIA EMAIL: househealthandhumanservices@rilegislature.gov

Hon. Susan Donovan, Chairwoman
Committee on Health and Human Services
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Opposition for House Bill 7143 to Repeal the Certificate of Need Process

Dear Chairwoman Donovan,

On behalf of Rhode Island's home care, home nursing care and hospice providers, I respectfully request that the House Health and Human Services Committee not advance House Bill 7143, sponsored by House Minority Whip David Place.

House Bill 7143 proposes to **repeal Rhode Island's Certificate of Need (CoN) statutory framework**, eliminating the state's primary mechanism for evaluating the need for new healthcare services and providers. While efforts to modernize regulatory processes are appropriate, full repeal of the CoN program would represent a significant and destabilizing policy shift—particularly in the current environment within Rhode Island's home-based care industry.

Data presented by the Rhode Island Department of Health's Center for Health Facilities Regulation (CHFR) demonstrates significant and systemic deficiencies among newly licensed providers:

- In the last publicly reported survey period from January 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025, **all 23 new home care providers were cited for deficient practices** with deficiencies ranged from **5 to 25 citations per provider**;
- **16 of 18 new home nursing care providers** were cited, with deficiencies as high as **27 citations for one provider**; and
- Violations included failures in **clinical documentation, governance, personnel oversight, quality improvement programs and emergency preparedness**.

These findings demonstrate that even under the current CoN framework, Rhode Island is experiencing **significant challenges with provider readiness, oversight, and quality compliance**.

Eliminating the CoN process entirely would likely exacerbate these issues by:

- Removing a critical front-end review of **market need and provider capacity**;
- Allowing **unrestricted entry** into an already constrained workforce environment; and

- Increasing the likelihood of **further quality degradation**, particularly among newly established providers lacking operational infrastructure.

Rhode Island law already contemplates a data-driven approach to healthcare system planning. Pursuant to **R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-93-5(b-f)**, the state is required to maintain a **biennial healthcare utilization and capacity study and inventory** to inform system-wide decision-making.

The appropriate policy response, therefore, is not to eliminate oversight—but to **strengthen alignment between data, planning, and regulatory decision-making**.

In this regard, the Rhode Island Partnership for Home Care instead strongly supports **House Bill 8214** as **the more measured and responsible approach**.

Unlike House Bill 7143, House Bill 8214, sponsored by House Oversight Committee Chairwoman Patricia Serpa:

- Establishes a **temporary moratorium on new licenses** to allow for system stabilization;
- Requires a **comprehensive utilization and capacity study for certain healthcare services**; and
- Aligns future licensure decisions with **objective, statewide data on need and access**.

In short, House Bill 8214 advances **targeted reform**, while House Bill 7143 would remove essential guardrails altogether based solely on political ideology from conservative think tanks, such as The Heritage Foundation, that do not have experience in strategic healthcare systems planning to prevent negative impacts on vulnerable socioeconomic and special health populations. At a time when Rhode Island is confronting workforce shortages, increasing demand for home-based healthcare services and clear evidence of quality deficiencies among new provider entrants, Rhode Island should be moving toward **greater coordination, not deregulation**.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose House Bill 7143 and instead, advance House Bill 8214. Thank you for your continued leadership and your longstanding support of Rhode Island's most vulnerable residents and the providers that deliver their healthcare services at home.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Oliver

Nicholas Oliver, MPA, CAE, AAiP
Executive Director

cc: Members, House Committee on Health and Human Services