

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** Amanda and Tucker Holmes <tuckerandamandaholmes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 8, 2026 1:17 PM  
**To:** House Health and Human Services Committee  
**Subject:** Written Testimony in Support of H7272, H8203, and H7626

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Dear Chair and Members of the House Health Committee,

Newport Hospital must continue offering essential health care services to our communities and the families of Aquidneck Island. It is imperative that Brown University Health keep the Noreen Stonor Drexel Birthing Center at Newport Hospital open.

I am writing to you in strong support of H7272, H8203, and H7626. Access to local maternity care is a fundamental component of public health infrastructure. When birthing services are reduced or eliminated without meaningful transparency and review, families especially mothers and children as well as other members of the community such as EMS and other hospitals bear the consequences.

H8203 ties the strings to any funds that Brown Health receives from the taxpayer money from the State of Rhode Island. If Brown Health receives any money from the state to ensure essential health care services for Rhode Islanders, it must keep the Birthing Center at Newport Hospital open.

H7272 strengthens oversight by requiring clear financial justification, public notice, and Department of Health approval before any birthing center can be closed or materially reduced. These safeguards ensure that decisions impacting maternal and newborn care are made transparently and with full consideration of community needs. This bill does not prevent responsible health system management but instead ensures accountability when essential services are at stake.

H7626 ensures that maternal health data, workforce development, and equity initiatives are integrated into long-term state policy rather than temporary initiatives. Maternal health outcomes reflect the strength of our healthcare system as a whole. This bill provides the stability and accountability necessary to improve outcomes for mothers and infants statewide.

I respectfully urge the passage of H7272, H8203, and H7626. Do not close the Noreen Stonor Drexel Birthing Center at Newport Hospital. The mothers and children of Aquidneck Island are counting on you to make their health and safety and priority.

Sincerely,  
Amanda M. Holmes  
Moms Over Margins / Middletown, RI