



235 Promenade Street, Suite 455
Providence, RI 02908
401.274.1771
info@rihca.org
www.rihca.org

April 9, 2026

The Honorable Susan Donovan
Rhode Island House of Representatives
House Health and Human Services Committee
(Submitted electronically via HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilcislature.gov)

Dear Chair Donovan and Members of the Committee:

Please accept the Rhode Island Health Center Association's letter in **support of House Bills 7272 and 7626**, both of which address the importance of maternal health and families in Rhode Island.

Maternal health is fundamental to the well-being of families and communities. When mothers have access to high-quality, comprehensive care, they are more likely to experience healthy pregnancies, safe deliveries, and positive long-term outcomes for both themselves and their children. Community health centers play an essential role in this continuum of care by providing accessible, culturally responsive, and patient-centered services, including maternal healthcare, particularly for underserved and historically marginalized populations.

Hospital birth centers also play a critical role in ensuring safe and effective care for pregnant individuals and their infants. These centers provide high-quality clinical support and resources that help reduce the risk of complications and improve maternal and infant health outcomes across communities throughout the state. House Bill 7272 seeks to establish important safeguards that protect access to the essential healthcare services provided by hospital birth centers before, during, and after pregnancy.

The Rhode Island Department of Health's Maternal Health Innovation grant and the Rhode Island Maternal Task Force bring together community members, organizations, birth workers, and healthcare professionals to address maternal health challenges statewide. House Bill 7626 builds on this work by advancing the state's Maternal Health Strategic Plan, which focuses on strengthening the perinatal system, expanding community and behavioral health supports, fostering innovation, and promoting continuous quality improvement.

We appreciate the leadership and commitment demonstrated by the sponsors in prioritizing maternal health, and we thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

M Campbell

Melissa Campbell
Policy Manager

The Rhode Island Health Center Association members include:
Blackstone Valley Community Health Care Inc. ~ Comprehensive Community Action Program
East Bay Community Action Program ~ Providence Community Health Centers
Thundermist Health Center ~ Tri-County Community Action Agency
WellOne Primary Medical and Dental Care ~ Wood River Health