



Michael Sroczynski  
President

April 9, 2026

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan  
Chair, House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: Oppose H.7541

Dear Chairperson Donovan,

On behalf of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) and our member hospitals, we strongly oppose H 7720. While we share the goal of keeping healthcare stable and accessible, this bill would make it harder—not easier—for hospitals to operate, innovate, and serve patients.

**Our concerns are as follows:**

**1. Redundancy with the Hospital Conversions Act (HCA)**

Rhode Island already has strong oversight through the Hospital Conversions Act, which allows the state to review and block harmful deals. This bill adds another lengthy (up to 6 months) approval process that will delay important partnerships and increase costs.

**2. Sets an unrealistic evidentiary standard (Section 23-106-6(c))**

Hospitals would have to prove—with near certainty—that a future transaction will not increase costs or reduce competition. That's not practical in today's changing healthcare environment and could allow the state to block even routine agreements.

**3. Erosion of Operational Agility and Innovation (Section 23-106-3)**

The bill expands oversight to include common business arrangements like management partnerships and leases. Requiring months of review for these routine decisions will discourage investment and make it harder for hospitals to adapt and improve care.

**4. Punitive financial burdens (Section 23-106-9)**

Hospitals would be required to pay for the state's review process, including outside consultants. This takes money away from patient care and puts it toward administrative costs.

Rhode Island's healthcare system is already under strain. This bill adds more delay, cost, and complexity without providing a clear benefit that is not already covered by the HCA.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to oppose H 7720.

Thank you for your consideration and continued partnership in supporting a strong and sustainable healthcare system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Tomasso", is written over a horizontal line.

Lisa P. Tomasso  
Senior Vice President