



April 9, 2026

House Committee on Health and Human Services
Rhode Island State House
househealthandhumanservices@rilegislature.gov

Re: **Testimony SUPPORTING HB 7720**

Dear Chair Donovan and Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of this bill.

ABC-RI stands for the rights and interests of all Rhode Islanders residing in long-term care facilities. We support HB 7720 because **our nursing homes are increasingly being taken over by investor groups that prioritize quick profit over quality care, the quality of care is subsequently declining, and actual harm to vulnerable residents is occurring more frequently.**

Evidence abounds of declines in care quality and poor outcomes when nursing homes are taken over by private equity and similar investor groups. Rhode Island has a process for vetting applicants purchasing nursing homes, but it is situated solely within the Department of Health, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Executive Branch. Every application for Change in Effective Control of RI nursing homes in at least the last five years has been summarily approved, all but two without any conditions placed on the sale (one of which had the conditions retroactively amended after they were met).

Even though the Attorney General's office regularly submits comments on these applications regarding applicants' use of related party transactions and other questionable financial practices, their comments have never resulted in any additional vetting or the imposition of precautionary conditions on the transfers. **By including the Attorney General's office in the process statutorily, H7720 increases rigor and objectivity where it is sorely needed, and we encourage your support.**

Thank you for your time and attention, and for all of your work on behalf of all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Gerard,
ABC-RI