

Mark Braun, CEO
Opposed House Bill 7930

Good afternoon Chair and Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Mark Braun, and I serve as the Chief Executive Officer of a multi-facility long-term care organization operating in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. I am writing to respectfully express my opposition to House Bill 7930.

I fully support the Legislature's goal of transparency and accountability in healthcare. However, this bill introduces provisions that, in practice, would create significant operational challenges for nursing facilities already facing rising costs, workforce shortages, and increasing resident acuity.

The proposed limitation on the withdrawal of funds—paired with a requirement for Department of Health approval—creates uncertainty and delays in accessing capital. Nursing facilities rely on timely financial flexibility to reinvest in operations, including staffing stabilization, equipment purchases, and critical infrastructure improvements such as HVAC, roofing, and clinical upgrades. Introducing an approval process for routine financial decisions risks slowing down these projects and limiting our ability to respond quickly to operational needs.

Additionally, restricting the movement of funds may negatively impact cash flow across facilities, particularly for organizations that operate multiple centers and routinely allocate resources to stabilize underperforming buildings. This flexibility is essential to maintaining continuity of care and improving quality outcomes. Limiting it could unintentionally hinder efforts to strengthen struggling facilities.

The bill's enhanced reporting requirements and significant financial penalties also create a highly punitive environment. While accountability is important, the risk of substantial penalties—even for administrative errors—may discourage responsible operators and potential buyers from investing in Rhode Island's long-term care sector.

At a time when the state should be encouraging investment and operational stability, this legislation risks creating additional barriers. Providers need the ability to act quickly, deploy capital efficiently, and make necessary improvements without delays that could ultimately affect resident care.

I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose House Bill 7930 and instead work collaboratively with providers to develop policies that promote transparency while preserving the flexibility needed to deliver high-quality care.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued commitment to Rhode Island's most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,
Mark Braun
Chief Executive Officer