



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

April 9, 2026

House Bill 7930: Requires the disclosure of the transfer of certain assets of healthcare facilities and provides penalties for failing to file healthcare facility ownership information.

(WRITTEN ONLY) POSITION: OPPOSE

Chair Donovan, Vice-Chair Giraldo, and members of the committee, while we appreciate the intent of HB 7930, thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition.

My name is Sharon Donaghue. I'm a registered nurse, serve as the Division President of Marquis Health Consulting Services, and have over three decades of experience in healthcare practice, operations, compliance, and finance.

Marquis entered Rhode Island in 2016, providing support to Elmhurst Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center in Providence.

Today, Marquis services and supports seven campuses that provide post-acute and long-term care services.

On average, our facilities in Rhode Island provide 347,082 days of care across all payer sources annually.

Serving as a public health safety net for Rhode Islanders most in need and supported by Medicaid, our campuses provide 229,583 days of Medicaid care annually. Without Marquis Facilities as a safety net, residents and patients would likely need to receive care in much more expensive settings, such as hospitals.

We employ 1,313 people in Rhode Island and pay local and state taxes.

Since we entered Rhode Island, we have invested over \$27 million in capital improvements to campuses and facilities, with another \$13.7 million planned for future years.

We are proud members and sit on the board of our Rhode Island Health Care Association.

We provide quality long-term and post-acute care to Rhode Islanders in need. I live here, and we are in it for the long haul.

We oppose HB 7930 because healthcare, in general, and skilled nursing facilities, in particular, are among the most heavily regulated entities by both state and federal governments. And frankly, any unnecessary dollar spent on duplicate compliance is a dollar that cannot go towards quality care, wages, or benefits.

And unlike other entities, we in healthcare, again especially nursing homes, don't set our prices; we are told what the Medicare and Medicaid rates are by the government, based on the acuity of the patient or resident, and the care we provide.

Multiple layers of regulatory oversight already require extensive disclosure of ownership and financial relationships when an entity seeks to acquire, operate, or make significant changes to a nursing facility.

All owners and operators must register with the Rhode Island Secretary of State and provide full disclosure of ownership information. In addition, the statutory Change in Effective Control (CEC) process—administered by the Rhode Island Department of Health and reviewed by the Health Services Council—requires detailed disclosure of ownership structures, management relationships, and related-party transactions.

Final approval rests with the RIDOH Director. This process is rigorous and time-intensive, often taking one to two years to complete. RIDOH also must review and approve new management agreements, material changes to existing contracts, and real estate transactions.

Taken together, these existing requirements already provide comprehensive transparency and oversight. As a result, additional layers of regulation would be duplicative, increase administrative burden, and risk further delaying needed transactions without improving accountability or patient care.

Together with each of you, we are fortunate to be guided by our focus on outcomes. We work hard, in partnership and as a team, not just installing processes or managing government or enterprise, but by producing measurable results in people's lives.

HB 7930 will not produce measurable results in people's lives. And if it truly had that promise, then we would apply it to all healthcare entities, from hospitals to doctors' offices. And all Rhode Island industries, healthcare, education, fiancé, real estate, tourism, and fishing.

With respect, we humbly oppose HB 7930. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Submitted by:

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