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April 9, 2026

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

Dear Chair Donovan and Members of the Committee:

Please accept the Rhode Island Health Center Association's letter in **support of House Bill 7940**, which would expand discrimination protections and demonstrate our commitment to fairness for all Rhode Islanders.

As non-discrimination protections in health care are being rolled back or unenforced on the federal level, more individuals are facing the risk of being denied coverage, paying higher costs, or encountering discriminatory health plan designs due to factors such as race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, or other personal characteristics. Protections against discrimination in health insurance are growing increasingly critical.

By amending state discrimination statutes to encompass more protected categories and additional forms of discrimination, as a state, we can help ensure fair and equitable access to medically necessary care for all Rhode Islanders. The bill's approach seeks to address any potential imbalances, ensuring that the rights and needs of all parties are considered and respected.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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