

Steven Sepe

From: Paul Marshall <pmarshall401@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2026 10:33 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Cc: Charlotte Marshall
Subject: Written Support of H8203, H7272, H7626

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Dear Chair and Members of the House Health Committee,

Newport Hospital needs to continue providing essential healthcare services for families here on Aquidneck Island.

This issue is deeply personal to us. Paul was born at Newport Hospital, and both of our sons were born there as well. The Birthing Center is not just a service—it is part of the fabric of our community and has played a role in our own family's story across generations.

We are writing in strong support of H8203, H7272, and H7627. Access to local maternity care isn't optional—it's a core part of a healthy, functioning community. When services like the Birthing Center are at risk without transparency or oversight, it's families who bear the consequences.

We appreciate that Brown Health has made the decision to keep the Birthing Center open for now—but we need a long-term solution to ensure this essential service remains in place for Newport County.

H8203 helps ensure accountability by tying state funding to maintaining critical services like the Birthing Center. If public dollars are being used, those services must be protected.

H7272 introduces necessary safeguards by requiring transparency, public notice, and Department of Health review before any reduction or closure of services. These are reasonable steps when decisions have such a direct impact on families.

H7627 ensures maternal health is treated as a long-term priority, strengthening outcomes for mothers and newborns across Rhode Island.

These bills are about accountability, transparency, and protecting essential care—not limiting responsible healthcare management.

We respectfully urge you to support these bills.

Sincerely,
Charlotte and Paul Marshall
Newport, Rhode Island