



Michael Sroczynski
President

April 9, 2026

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
Chair, House Committee on Health and Human Services
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: Oppose H.8203

Dear Chairperson Donovan,

On behalf of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) and our member hospitals, I am writing to express opposition to H.8203, a resolution which would condition state funding to hospitals on the maintenance of certain services.

We share the goal of preserving access to essential services, including maternal and neonatal care. However, this resolution establishes a policy precedent that would have far-reaching and unintended consequences for the entire healthcare system.

By conditioning all state funding on the maintenance of a specific service at a single facility, the resolution introduces a standard that could be applied broadly across the industry. Today, it is a birthing center; tomorrow, it could be any clinical service, at any hospital, for any reason. This creates a framework where hospitals risk losing critical funding streams—including Medicaid payments and supplemental support—based on operational decisions that are often driven by workforce availability, patient volumes, clinical safety considerations, and financial sustainability.

Hospitals must continuously evaluate how best to deliver care safely and effectively within a highly complex and resource-constrained environment. A policy that ties essential funding to the indefinite operation of a specific service removes the flexibility needed to adapt to changing conditions and undermines responsible healthcare management.

Importantly, the consequences of this approach would extend beyond any single system. If applied more broadly, it would place every hospital in Rhode Island at risk of sudden and significant funding disruptions. That level of uncertainty would destabilize hospital operations, hinder long-term planning, and ultimately threaten patient access to care statewide.

For these reasons, HARI respectfully urges the Committee to oppose H.8203.

We appreciate your consideration and continued partnership in improving the strength, stability, and accessibility of Rhode Island's healthcare system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Tomasso", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Lisa P. Tomasso
Senior Vice President