



April 9, 2026

House Committee on Health and Human Services
Rhode Island State House
househealthandhumanservices@rilegislature.gov

Re: **Testimony SUPPORTING HB 8214**

Dear Chair Donovan and Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony regarding H8214

ABC-RI advocates for the rights and interests of all Rhode Islanders living in long-term care facilities.

We are interested in HB 8214 because the volume of new home care agencies approved by RIDOH in recent years raises serious questions that this legislation begins to address.

There were 19 Certificate of Need applications for new home care or home nursing care provider agencies in Rhode Island in 2021, growing to 78 in 2025, with 33 more already filed in the first few months of 2026 — **more than 225 applications in total over that period of just over 5 years, attached** (some duplication where an application was refiled with a slightly different name). Who is staffing these agencies? What qualifications do they hold? What oversight exists once the license is issued?

These are not rhetorical questions. They are the questions HB 8214 should answer.

The contrast with hospice is likewise of interest. Over the same period, just 6 new hospice establishment applications were submitted statewide, and only 3 were approved — Harmony Hospice, Eden Hospice, and Pathways Healthcare. Six hospice ownership changes also took place.

Thank you for your time and attention, and for all of your work on behalf of all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Gerard,
ABC-RI