



May 28, 2026

SEIU 1199NE Position in Support of H-8500 – Healthcare Financial Transparency and Reporting Requirements

Dear Chair Donovan and Honorable Members of the House Health & Human Services Committee:

On behalf of SEIU 1199NE, which represents healthcare and social service workers across Rhode Island, including workers in hospitals, nursing homes, homecare, and community healthcare settings, we write in support of H-8500.

This legislation is an important step toward improving transparency, accountability, and fiscal oversight within Rhode Island’s healthcare system. Healthcare workers, patients, taxpayers, and policymakers deserve a clearer understanding of the financial health of major healthcare entities operating in our state — especially at a time when healthcare systems continue to seek additional public funding, warn about financial instability, and make operational decisions that directly impact patient care and frontline caregivers.

Far too often, frontline healthcare workers are told that staffing cuts, service reductions, wage constraints, or delays in critical investments are unavoidable because of financial pressures. At the same time, the public and policymakers may not have timely access to detailed financial information needed to fully evaluate those claims. Quarterly financial reporting requirements can help create a more accurate and transparent picture of how healthcare dollars are being spent and where financial challenges truly exist.

Importantly, much of the information required under this legislation is already tracked internally by healthcare systems and facilities as part of their normal financial operations, audits, lender requirements, and regulatory compliance processes. In most cases, this is not about creating entirely new reporting systems, but rather ensuring that existing information is shared with the state in a consistent and timely manner. Given the amount of public funding that flows into Rhode Island’s healthcare system, this level of transparency is both reasonable and necessary.

This bill would also help support more informed policymaking. Rhode Island continues to invest significant public resources into the healthcare system through Medicaid, supplemental

payments, grants, tax policies, and other funding mechanisms. Greater financial transparency helps ensure that public investments are being used responsibly to support patient care, workforce stability, and long-term sustainability.

Healthcare workers understand that Rhode Island's healthcare system faces real financial pressures. However, transparency and accountability should not be viewed as punitive measures. Strong reporting requirements can help build trust between healthcare institutions, workers, patients, and the public while also helping policymakers identify problems earlier before they become larger crises that negatively impact access to care.

For these reasons, SEIU 1199NE urges the Committee to support H-8500.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alex Moore
Political Director

SEIU 1199NE

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