



WOOD RIVER HEALTH
Caring for Our Community Since 1976

May 26, 2026

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

RE: Opposition to Rhode Island House Bill 8500

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

On behalf of Wood River Health, I write to respectfully oppose Rhode Island House Bill 8500. As a community health center, we support transparency and accountability, but we are concerned that the bill would impose unnecessary and duplicative reporting requirements on us while extending regulatory authority in ways that are not appropriate for community-governed providers.

Health centers already provide substantial financial, operational, and governance information through existing federal, state, and programmatic reporting processes. H8500 would add another layer of quarterly reporting that is unnecessarily burdensome. Submitting this data and responding to questions would divert limited staff time and resources from core operations.

The bill represents an overreach of authority by intruding into matters that properly belong to the governing boards of health centers, which are responsible for oversight, fiduciary stewardship, and organizational decision-making.

Any new reporting framework should avoid duplicating existing requirements and should respect the statutory and operational role of health center boards. For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to oppose House Bill 8500.

We welcome the opportunity to work with policymakers on approaches that promote transparency without creating duplicative requirements or interfering with the governance responsibilities of health center boards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Alison L. Croke'.

Alison L. Croke
President & CEO