



Michael Sroczynski
President

May 28, 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.8500

Dear Chairperson Donovan,

On behalf of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI), I write in opposition to H8500.

Hospitals share the goal of transparency and accountability. However, this legislation takes a misguided approach that risks further destabilizing Rhode Island's already fragile healthcare system.

The bill misdiagnoses the underlying problem facing hospitals. Rhode Island hospitals are under severe financial strain primarily because Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement rates do not cover the actual cost of care. H8500 creates a new oversight and enforcement structure but does nothing to address these structural funding challenges.

Additionally, the legislation grants broad and undefined authority to the state to direct hospital operations without clear standards, limits, or due process protections. Such sweeping authority over private healthcare institutions is concerning and could lead to unintended consequences that negatively impact patient care and access.

The bill could also worsen financial instability by publicly labeling hospitals as being in "financial jeopardy," potentially triggering credit downgrades, workforce disruption, and reduced public confidence.

Finally, while we have concerns about the approach in this legislation, we believe these issues are already being addressed through a productive collaboration between HARI and EOHHS to improve financial transparency through audited reporting and the development of a statewide dashboard.

Rather than imposing punitive and open-ended oversight authority, we urge the Committee to build upon this existing collaboration and focus on addressing the real issue: sustainable healthcare funding.

For these reasons, HARI respectfully urges the Committee to oppose H8500.

Thank you for your consideration and continued partnership in supporting a strong and sustainable healthcare system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa P. Tomasso". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Lisa P. Tomasso
Senior Vice President

Hospital Association of Rhode Island

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