



April 8, 2026

The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H7127, Governor's FY 2027, FY 2026 Revised and Capital Budgets, EOHHS

Dear Chairman DiPalma, and the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is David Martins, and I am the Director of AIDS Project Rhode Island, a program of Family Service of Rhode Island. Through funding administered by EOHHS, APRI provides Ryan White services that help Rhode Islanders living with HIV stay connected to care, medications, and essential supports.

Today, I respectfully ask the General Assembly to provide \$2 million in additional funding through EOHHS to strengthen Rhode Island's Ryan White program, bringing our state into closer alignment with neighboring states like Massachusetts and Connecticut that have made stronger state-level investments in HIV care infrastructure.

Ryan White works alongside Medicaid to ensure individuals living with HIV can access the full continuum of care. Medicaid reimbursement supports the delivery of HIV Non-Medical Case Management, while Ryan White fills critical gaps that help people remain engaged in treatment and achieve viral suppression.

Federal reductions to Ryan White threaten the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, or ADAP, which provides access to lifesaving medications. Cuts to ADAP not only jeopardize medication access — they also reduce the pharmaceutical rebate revenue that helps sustain HIV services. Without adequate support, people will become sicker, and preventable transmissions will increase. At the same time, Medicaid reimbursement rates for HIV Non-Medical Case Management have not kept pace with the cost of providing care. We are grateful that OHIC has approved updated rates, but phasing them in gradually prolongs instability in the provider network.

We respectfully request full implementation of OHIC-approved rates now, along with a \$2 million investment in Ryan White services. These actions will stabilize the workforce, preserve access to medications, and protect Rhode Island's progress in HIV care and prevention.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the health of Rhode Islanders living with HIV.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to ensuring access to high-quality care for individuals living with HIV. We look forward to working together with EOHHS and the legislature to further understand the implications of the challenges we face, and to address those challenges together.



Sincerely,

David M. Martins
Director, AIDS Project Rhode Island
Family Service of Rhode Island