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April 9, 2026

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

Re: **Support Governor's FY2027 Budget (HJR 7127), Article 1, Department of Human Services**

Dear Chair DiPalma and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Protect Our Healthcare Coalition is a group of leading Rhode Island nonprofit organizations and consumer groups with a shared mission to protect, improve, and expand equitable access to quality, person-centered, affordable health care for all.

The Coalition respectfully submits testimony in **support** of the \$200,000 allocation for the United Way of Rhode Island's 211 program. UWRI's 211 program connects thousands of Rhode Islanders to local services, like housing, food, healthcare and affordable childcare. With ongoing federal changes in eligibility for public benefits, it is important that Rhode Islanders have access to easy-to-use resources that provide reliable information, like 211.

Thank you for your consideration, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Steinberg
Coordinator, Protect Our Healthcare Coalition

Protect Our Healthcare Coalition partners include: Economic Progress Institute, RIPIN, Mental Health Association RI, RI Health Center Association, Latino Policy Institute, United Way of Rhode Island, Senior Agenda Coalition RI, RI Medical Society, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, SEIU Rhode Island Council, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Blood Cancer United, RI Coalition for the Homeless, Rhode Island Working Families Party, Mental Health Recovery Coalition, RI Community Food Bank, RI Psychological Association, Substance Use & Mental Health Leadership Council, Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families, HousingWorks RI, Rhode Island Organizing Project (RIOP), National Association of Social Workers RI Chapter, The Womxn Project, Advocates for Better Care
