



235 Promenade Street, Suite 455
Providence, RI 02908
401.274.1771
info@rihca.org
www.rihca.org

April 8, 2026

The Honorable Senator Louis DiPalma
Rhode Island State Senate
Senate Finance Committee
(Submitted electronically via SenateFinance@rilegislature.gov)

Dear Chair DiPalma and Members of the Committee:

Please accept the Rhode Island Health Center Association's letter of **support** for House Bill 7127, Article 1, Human Services, which would allocate \$200,000 for the United Way of Rhode Island's (UWRI) 211 program.

UWRI's 211 program serves as a vital lifeline for Rhode Islanders, connecting individuals and families to essential local services, including housing assistance, food resources, transportation, and more, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. By offering a centralized system, 211 helps ensure that people can quickly find the support they need during times of uncertainty or hardship.

As federal policies and eligibility requirements for public benefits continue to evolve, it is increasingly important that residents have access to clear, accurate, and up-to-date information. Programs like 211 play a critical role in bridging this gap by providing reliable guidance and helping people understand their options. Expanding awareness and support for 211 will help ensure that more Rhode Islanders can access the resources they need and avoid falling through the cracks during periods of change.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa Campbell".

Melissa Campbell
Policy Manager

The Rhode Island Health Center Association members include:
Blackstone Valley Community Health Care Inc. ~ Comprehensive Community Action Program
East Bay Community Action Program ~ Providence Community Health Centers
Thundermist Health Center ~ Tri-County Community Action Agency
WellOne Primary Medical and Dental Care ~ Wood River Health