



**Rhode Island Partnership
for Home Care**

Advancing quality healthcare at home

April 9, 2026

VIA EMAIL: senatefinance@rilegislature.gov

Hon. Louis DiPalma, Chairman
Committee on Finance
Rhode Island Senate
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Fully Fund Medicaid-Contracted Home Care Provider Rates in SFY27 Article 8

Dear Chairman DiPalma,

On behalf of the Medicaid-contracted home care providers of the Rhode Island Partnership for Home Care, I write to respectfully request that the Senate Finance Committee fully fund provider reimbursement rate increases in the SFY27 budget in accordance with existing statutory guidance.

As you know, Rhode Island General Laws § 42-14.5-3(t)(2)(x) authorizes the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to pursue and implement the necessary waiver amendments, state plan amendments, and regulatory changes to effectuate Medicaid provider reimbursement rate updates. These updates are limited to the lower amount of one-half of the increases recommended, or one hundred percent of the Medicare rates, as identified in the Social and Human Service Programs Review Final Report produced by the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner, effective October 1, 2026.

We are now in the second cycle of OHIC's biennial recommendations. Unlike prior years, when the State was attempting to recover from prolonged rate freezes compounded by significant workforce losses, the current recommended adjustments are, by and large, manageable and predictable. The rate methodology is transparent, data-driven, and aligned with Medicare benchmarks.

Fully funding these increases in the SFY27 budget is essential to maintaining workforce stability across the home care continuum. Medicaid-contracted providers must remain competitive in wages and benefits for paraprofessional direct care workers, licensed nurses, therapists, social workers, and essential administrative and operational staff. Absent continued investment, Rhode Island risks renewed workforce erosion, reduced provider participation, and diminished access to care for seniors and individuals with disabilities who depend on home and community-based services.

Home care, home health, and hospice services are cost-effective alternatives to institutional care and are central to the State's long-term services and supports strategy. Ensuring that reimbursement rates keep pace with market realities is not simply a provider issue; it is a system sustainability issue.

We respectfully urge you to include full funding of the OHIC-recommended Medicaid rate increases in the SFY27 budget consistent with the statutory framework enacted by the General Assembly. We stand ready to provide any additional data or testimony that would assist the Committee in its deliberations.

Thank you for your continued leadership and your longstanding support of Rhode Island's most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Oliver

Nicholas Oliver, MPA, CAE, AAiP
Executive Director

cc: Members, Senate Committee on Finance