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The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma  
Rhode Island State Senate  
Senate Finance Committee  
(Submitted electronically via [SenateFinance@rilegislature.gov](mailto:SenateFinance@rilegislature.gov))

Dear Chair DiPalma and Members of the Committee:

Please accept the Rhode Island Health Center Association's letter of support for Senate Bill 2831, which supports funding for the primary care training sites program.

Rhode Island's eight community health centers are primary care safety net providers for over 220,000 individuals combined: 85% of their patients have incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, 51% are enrolled in Medicaid, and 10% are uninsured. Demand for services at health centers continues to rise, with a 10,000-patient increase in just one year.

A strong primary care workforce is crucial to ensuring health centers can provide care to underserved communities in the state. State workforce shortages have made recruiting and retaining staff challenging for health centers. Rhode Island must continue to work to address its primary care clinician shortages by investing in primary care.

SB2831 would ensure continued funding support for the Primary Care Training Sites Program. The program supports training for physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants, ensuring that primary care providers have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to deliver comprehensive, evidence-based care to their patients. The program anticipates 68% growth in clinical training across participating sites in its first year. Funding will allow the program to continue its important work.

We thank the sponsors for their dedication to addressing the primary care crisis and the Committee for their consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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