



State of Rhode Island
Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos

April 7, 2026

The Hon. Melissa Murray
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
82 Smith Street, Senate Lounge
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Letter of Support for S2119: An Act Relating To State Affairs And Government -- Office Of Health And Human Services

Dear Chair Murray:

I write to you in strong support of S2119: An Act Relating To State Affairs And Government -- Office Of Health And Human Services. This bill provides that the EOHHS, through Emergency Medicaid, cover dialysis for the treatment of end stage renal disease ("ESRD") and kidney transplants for RI residents who do not qualify for full Medicaid under federal law due to their immigration status.

For patients with ESRD, dialysis becomes a permanent and necessary part of their lives. Patients who get hemodialysis services at a center typically go anywhere from 3-7 times per week. Even with insurance, dialysis services can be costly; without insurance, patients could expect to see bills upwards of \$500 per session. This means that residents who do not fully qualify for Medicaid due to their immigration status must make the impossible choice between paying out-of-pocket or simply foregoing dialysis, which can be fatal. Absolutely nobody should go without the care they need because of their federal immigration status.

This bill addresses this by requiring Emergency Medicaid cover hemodialysis in both outpatient hospital settings and at freestanding dialysis centers. This bill would also extend coverage under its provisions to cover kidney transplants as well. For these reasons, I urge you to vote this bill favorably out of committee.

Sincerely,

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

Sabina Matos
Lieutenant Governor, State of Rhode Island
CC: Senator Dawn Euer