

**From:** [Charles Pattavina](#)  
**To:** [S Legislation](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Euer, Dawn](#)  
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I am writing in favor of passage of this bill BUT IT SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE ALL SIGNIFICANT HOSPITAL SERVICES, not just birthing centers.

Services like the birthing center at Newport Hospital are vital to the communities they serve and hospital system executives should not be able to close them when the community and regulators need and want otherwise. The Stonor birthing center at Newport Hospital is the only one in this region and it is an important part of the hospital and the community fabric. It is also only the latest attempt to reduce services and downsize Newport Hospital; other recent cuts include cardiac rehab, pulmonary and urology services.

I have had four grandchildren born at Newport Hospital and I think we know this valuable service is important to attract young families to the area and retain them. Families are essential to our communities and we can't keep chasing them off by failing to provide the services they need. We have temporary reprieve but what will Brown Health's long term plan be for island mothers?

Brown Health is surely well aware of its obligation to provide healthcare services which are aligned with the needs of the communities. We allow them to operate Newport Hospital and they may control it, but this hospital is a community asset and the birthing center is an essential part of that asset.

Having said that, I do agree that reimbursement is a problem and the state and federal government need to do something about that. Rhode Island is one of the most patient-unfriendly states in the country, due to everything from poor reimbursement to powerful insurance companies to an unhealthy malpractice insurance environment. And these are definitely things you have the power to remedy.

Thank you.  
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Newport