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The Honorable Melissa Murray
Rhode Island State Senate
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
(Submitted electronically via SLegislation@rilegislature.gov)

Dear Chair Murray and Members of the Committee:

Please accept the Rhode Island Health Center Association's letter in **support of Senate Bill 2380**, which addresses the importance of maternal health and birthing in Rhode Island.

Maternal health is fundamental to the well-being of families and communities. When mothers have access to high-quality, comprehensive care, they are more likely to experience healthy pregnancies, safe deliveries, and positive long-term outcomes for both themselves and their children. Community health centers play an essential role in this continuum of care by providing accessible, culturally responsive, and patient-centered services, including maternal healthcare, particularly for underserved and historically marginalized populations.

Hospital birth centers also play a critical role in ensuring safe and effective care for pregnant individuals and their infants. These centers provide high-quality clinical support and resources that help reduce the risk of complications and improve maternal and infant health outcomes throughout the state. Senate Bill 2380 seeks to establish important safeguards that protect access to the essential healthcare services provided by hospital birth centers before, during, and after pregnancy, and ensure access for all communities.

We appreciate the leadership and commitment demonstrated by the sponsors in prioritizing maternal health, and we thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

M. 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