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Diana Franchitto
President & CEO

April 28, 2026

The Honorable Melissa A. Murray, Chairwoman
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairwoman Murray,

We are writing in support of Senate Bill 2388 and thank Senator McKenney for introducing this legislation. This bill states that no approvals for new home care provider, home nursing care provider or hospice provider licenses would be issued prior to July 1, 2031.

The rationale for supporting a moratorium on new hospice provider licenses is as follows:

- **Rhode Island**: There is no unmet need for additional hospice providers in Rhode Island.
 - Rhode Island has the third-highest hospice utilization rate in the country at 61.1%, with 12 licensed providers.
 - Existing licensed hospice providers in Rhode Island have ample capacity to serve additional patients.
 - Hospice enrollment growth in Rhode Island has been relatively flat in recent years with only a .5% increase in patients served from 2024 to 2026.

It is important to note that this issue is also being discussed on the federal level. In March, Congress introduced the Hospice Care Accountability, Reform and Enforcement Act of 2026, which proposes a five-year moratorium on new hospice enrollments. Nationally, stakeholders have urged the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to issue this temporary, nationwide moratorium in response to the growth of fraudulent providers. These bad actors exploit vulnerable patients, undermine trust, and threaten the integrity of the Medicare hospice benefit.

Several years ago, California initiated a moratorium on new hospice providers to address concerns regarding fraud and abuse. This moratorium was recently extended.

For the reasons stated above we ask the Committee to support S2388. If you would like to discuss the importance of this moratorium on new hospice provider licenses in Rhode Island, we would welcome the opportunity to speak with you further.

Sincerely,

Diana Franchitto, MBA, FACHE
President & CEO

Edward W. Martin, MD, MPH, FAAHPM
Chief Medical Officer

Cc: The Honorable Mark McKenney
Senate Health and Human Services Committee members