



**Rhode Island Partnership  
for Home Care**

*Advancing quality healthcare at home*

April 9, 2026

**VIA EMAIL:** [slegislation@rilegislature.gov](mailto:slegislation@rilegislature.gov)

Hon. Melissa Murray, Chairwoman  
Committee on Health and Human Services  
Rhode Island Senate  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: Opposition for Senate Bill 2865 to Repeal the Certificate of Need Process**

Dear Chairwoman Murray,

On behalf of Rhode Island's home care, home nursing care and hospice providers, I respectfully request that the Senate Health and Human Services Committee not advance Senate Bill 2865, sponsored by Senate Minority Leader Jessica de la Cruz.

Senate Bill 2865 proposes to **repeal Rhode Island's Certificate of Need (CoN) statutory framework**, eliminating the state's primary mechanism for evaluating the need for new healthcare services and providers. While efforts to modernize regulatory processes are appropriate, full repeal of the CoN program would represent a significant and destabilizing policy shift—particularly in the current environment within Rhode Island's home-based care industry.

Data presented by the Rhode Island Department of Health's Center for Health Facilities Regulation (CHFR) demonstrates significant and systemic deficiencies among newly licensed providers:

- In the last publicly reported survey period from January 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025, **all 23 new home care providers were cited for deficient practices** with deficiencies ranged from **5 to 25 citations per provider**;
- **16 of 18 new home nursing care providers** were cited, with deficiencies as high as **27 citations for one provider**; and
- Violations included failures in **clinical documentation, governance, personnel oversight, quality improvement programs and emergency preparedness**.

These findings demonstrate that even under the current CoN framework, Rhode Island is experiencing **significant challenges with provider readiness, oversight, and quality compliance**.

Eliminating the CoN process entirely would likely exacerbate these issues by:

- Removing a critical front-end review of **market need and provider capacity**;
- Allowing **unrestricted entry** into an already constrained workforce environment; and

- Increasing the likelihood of **further quality degradation**, particularly among newly established providers lacking operational infrastructure.

Rhode Island law already contemplates a data-driven approach to healthcare system planning. Pursuant to **R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-93-5(b-f)**, the state is required to maintain a **biennial healthcare utilization and capacity study and inventory** to inform system-wide decision-making.

The appropriate policy response, therefore, is not to eliminate oversight—but to **strengthen alignment between data, planning, and regulatory decision-making**.

In this regard, the Rhode Island Partnership for Home Care instead strongly supports **Senate Bill 2388** as **the more measured and responsible approach**.

Unlike Senate Bill 2865, Senate Bill 2388, sponsored by Senate Rules, Government Ethics and Oversight Committee Chairman Mark McKenney:

- Establishes a **temporary moratorium on new licenses** to allow for system stabilization;
- Requires a **comprehensive utilization and capacity study for certain healthcare services**; and
- Aligns future licensure decisions with **objective, statewide data on need and access**.

In short, Senate Bill 2388 advances **targeted reform**, while Senate Bill 2865 would remove essential guardrails altogether based solely on political ideology from conservative think tanks, such as The Heritage Foundation, that do not have experience in strategic healthcare systems planning to prevent negative impacts on vulnerable socioeconomic and special health populations. At a time when Rhode Island is confronting workforce shortages, increasing demand for home-based healthcare services and clear evidence of quality deficiencies among new provider entrants, Rhode Island should be moving toward **greater coordination, not deregulation**.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose Senate Bill 2865 and instead, advance Senate Bill 2388. Thank you for your continued leadership and your longstanding support of Rhode Island's most vulnerable residents and the providers that deliver their healthcare services at home.

Sincerely,

*Nicholas Oliver*

Nicholas Oliver, MPA, CAE, AAiP  
Executive Director

cc: Members, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services