



Michael Sroczynski
President

April 7, 2026

The Honorable Melissa A. Murray
Chairperson, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: Support S.3091

Dear Chairperson Murray,

On behalf of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) and our member hospitals, I write to express support for S.3091.

This legislation is a necessary and timely response to emerging coverage challenges at the federal level. As changes associated with H.R. 1 take effect, Rhode Island is likely to see individuals lose commercial coverage and/or fall off Medicaid. When coverage is lost, healthcare needs do not disappear—but the burden of that care shifts to hospitals.

At the same time, public payers do not fully cover the cost of care. Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates remain below cost, and hospitals must rely on a balanced payer mix to remain financially viable. Rhode Island's unique hospital rate cap has successfully controlled costs for consumers for more than a decade—but it has done so at the expense of hospital operating margins and long-term sustainability.

While recent investments have helped stabilize the system, that progress remains fragile.

S.3091 is part of a broader, multi-pronged strategy to address these pressures. By recognizing and supporting the growing impact of uncompensated care, this legislation helps ensure hospitals can continue to provide access to care for all Rhode Islanders—regardless of coverage status.

As policymakers consider the challenges ahead, it is critical to take proactive steps that preserve access, support system stability, and maintain the progress Rhode Island has made.

HARI respectfully urges the Committee to support S.3091.

Thank you for your consideration and continued partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Tomasso", written over a thin horizontal line.

Lisa P. Tomasso
Senior Vice President