

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chairman, House Committee on Finance
RI House of Representatives
By Email To: HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

RE: In Support of H7597: Hospital Care Transition Program

Chair Abney,

I'm writing today in strong support of H7597, a bill that would keep the Hospital Care Transition Program running in Rhode Island. This program – operated jointly by RIPIN and South County, Kent, and Rhode Island Hospitals – embeds RIPIN Community Health Workers (CHWs) into hospital discharge teams to help vulnerable older patients discharge safely to home. This innovative approach saves the State money by avoiding long term skilled nursing facility (SNF) stays before they start, while also meeting the desires of most patients and their loved ones to receive care at home.

I battle liver cancer and was given only three months left to live. I wanted to live out the rest of my days peacefully in my own home with my partner able to care for me. With the help from CHW Bethany Costa she was able to expedite my application for the Medicaid LTSS personal choice to help make that a reality. Without the help from CHW Bethany's HCTI program intervention of the expedited LTSS application I wouldn't have had the option to have my partner be able to spend time while providing care to me. I'm extremely grateful and thankful for the help and support I received.

I want to thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and for your consideration of H7597.

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