



March 4, 2025

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair  
House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL NUMBER 5076 - ARTICLE 010 - AN ACT RELATING TO  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

On behalf of United Way of Rhode Island, we express our support for Bill Number 5076, Article 010, recognizing that healthcare is an essential component of a thriving life and a key driver of economic stability. Through the LIFT UNITED initiative of our LIVE UNITED 2025 Strategic Plan, we work to ensure that all Rhode Islanders—regardless of income—have access to the healthcare services they need to live healthy, stable, and productive lives. Without access to quality healthcare, individuals and families face more significant financial hardship, workforce instability, and economic insecurity.

Bill Number 5076, Article 010, presents an opportunity to remove barriers to care, expand access to behavioral and mental health services, and address the health-related social determinants that impact overall well-being. Article 010 is focused on modernizing Rhode Island's healthcare systems by establishing updated standards for healthcare facility operations, patient safety, and quality of care. By mandating comprehensive, data-driven guidelines and enhanced regulatory standards, this legislation ensures robust oversight and accountability across hospitals, clinics, and long-term care institutions. According to a 2023 report by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ, 2023), facilities that have implemented rigorous oversight protocols and updated standards experienced reductions in adverse events by as much as 15%, demonstrating the tangible benefits of data-driven healthcare improvements.

Furthermore, Article 010 empowers state agencies to collect and publicly report key performance metrics, thereby promoting transparency and continuous quality improvement in healthcare delivery. This forward-facing data not only bolsters patient safety but also informs critical policy decisions and drives equitable access to care. As healthcare systems across the nation that have embraced transparency measures report improved outcomes and heightened public trust, this legislation will

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enable Rhode Island to adapt to evolving patient needs and technological advancements. By investing in upgraded infrastructure and safeguarding patient rights, Article 010 lays a solid foundation for a resilient, equitable healthcare system that benefits all Rhode Islanders.

Healthcare is not a luxury but a fundamental right and a critical factor in economic stability. Ensuring all Rhode Islanders have access to affordable, high-quality care will lead to stronger communities, a healthier workforce, and reduced long-term financial strain on individuals and families. Supporting Bill Number 5076, Article 10, will help advance health equity and create a Rhode Island where everyone can access the care they need to live with dignity and stability. We urge your support in making healthcare access a priority for all.

Sincerely,

Elijah McLean

Manager, Government Relations & Policy

United Way Rhode Island

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