

March 26, 2025

Tracy Ramos
116 Bayview Ave
Bristol, RI 02809

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

RE: Amend HB 5076 – Department of Health FY2025 Supplemental and FY2026 Budgets

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the Committee,

I am writing from as a resident of Bristol and a Board Member of the East Bay Community Action Program, which works in service to the Bristol, Warren, East Providence and Newport Health Equity Zones (HEZ). **I write in opposition of the Rhode Island Department of Health budget as it is currently written, and in support of restoring the \$2.1 million allocation to fund all 14 of Rhode Island HEZs.**

The HEZ initiative serves Rhode Island's most vulnerable residents by utilizing a unique, community-driven approach to improving the overall health and resilience of communities throughout the state. The proposed budget lacks support for these collaboratives that have become a critical part of the state's public health infrastructure.

As a Bristol resident and an EBCAP board member, I have seen first hand how the HEZ programs in the East Bay have been instrumental to the health and overall well-being of our residents.

I urge you to insist on funding HEZ programs statewide by including HEZ funding in RIDOH's budget. A \$2.1 million allocation guarantees \$150,000 in support of each HEZ.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracy Ramos', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tracy Ramos
Bristol RI

cc via email: Representative Susan Donovan, Representative June Speakman, Representative Theresa Tanzi and Representative Katherine Kazarian