



Howard M Dulude  
Interim President

February 25, 2026

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan  
House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: Oppose – H.5168

Dear Chairperson Donovan:

The Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) and its members appreciate the opportunity to comment on H.5168 by Representative Boylan, which would require all state-licensed health care facilities to begin to transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources.

Hospitals recognize the critical importance of environmental sustainability, both in protecting public health and in achieving long-term economic efficiency. Due to their unique activities, stringent regulatory requirements, and 24/7 operations, hospitals are among the most energy-intensive facilities in any community—using 2.5 times more energy per square foot than an office building. As such, hospitals in Rhode Island have been proactively making climate-smart investments for years.

While hospitals support green initiatives, we are deeply concerned about the financial impact of a state-mandated energy transition at a time when hospitals are under significant financial strain. The Governor's proposed budget includes nearly \$25 million in cuts to hospital payments, compounding the fiscal pressures that hospitals are already facing due to rising labor costs, workforce shortages, and uncompensated care burdens. The cost of compliance with this legislation—particularly for older hospital facilities requiring extensive retrofits—would place an unrealistic financial burden on institutions already struggling to maintain access to care for Rhode Islanders.

Given these financial realities, HARI opposes H.5168.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to continuing to work with you to protect both the health of Rhode Islanders and the sustainability of our healthcare system.

Sincerely,

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

Lisa P. Tomasso  
Senior Vice President