Dear **[insert representative title and name here]**:

As a **[insert letter author’s role (e.g., Healthcare provider, Rhode Island resident, patient, etc.)]**, I am writing out of concern for the current condition of Rhode Island’s healthcare delivery system and in support of **The Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner Dual Mandate - 2024-Senate Bill 2722 and House Bill 8072.**

The last two decades have seen a very troubled history in Rhode Island healthcare. Since the early 2000’s, Rhode Island has seen a disproportionate amount of hospital bankruptcies, changes in control, and even closures. Currently, Rhode Island’s third largest health system faces dire financial conditions, struggling to pay vendors and perform surgeries.

Rhode Island’s hospitals also have some of the oldest infrastructure in the country, with ages of plants (industry measures of adequate infrastructure and updated technology) in significant excess of the national average. This means hospitalized patients in Rhode Island are routinely treated in comparatively antiquated facilities with older technology.

Rhode Island competes in a region that includes Massachusetts and Connecticut, where hospitals and healthcare providers enjoy 20–30% higher rates of reimbursement. This is the root cause of the aforementioned bankruptcies and deteriorating infrastructure, but it has also created an inadequate healthcare workforce where Rhode Islanders regularly struggle to find primary care physicians or get timely appointments with specialists.

Health systems in Massachusetts and Connecticut exploit their higher reimbursement rates to attract the best and brightest healthcare providers from Rhode Island. This creates an un-level playing field where Rhode Island regularly loses doctors and advanced practice providers, leaving Rhode Island residents with inadequate access to primary care providers and specialists. In fact, according the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), Rhode Island ranks 47th out of all 50 states in losing physicians after completing medical training.

It is imperative that Rhode Island legislators begin embracing policy decisions aimed at strengthening our state’s hospitals and supporting our state’s healthcare providers. These Bills do just that by implementing reimbursement rates for hospitals and healthcare providers at New England market averages.

I ask for your help in creating a sustainable, quality healthcare delivery system that we can all rely on for many years to come. Through committee and floor action to your final vote, I implore you to support the Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner Dual Mandate - 2024-Senate Bill 2722 and House Bill 8072.

Sincerely,

**[Insert letter author’s name]**

**[Insert letter author’s address]**