

For Immediate Release

Ed Quinlan (401) 465-8867

HARI Expresses Disappointment in Department of Health's Report on Uncompensated Care

CRANSTON, R.I. – Mar. 7, 2008 - The Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) today expressed disappointment over the release of "Hospital Net Uncompensated Care (2006)" by the Rhode Island Department of Health. The report, made public today, grossly understates the uncompensated care provided by hospitals to Rhode Island's neediest residents.

"The methodology and data used in the report is significantly flawed," said Edward J. Quinlan, president, Hospital Association of Rhode Island. "Using data provided to the Rhode Island Department of Health by hospitals, HARI has calculated uncompensated care to total \$124.9 million in 2006, an increase of 16% from 2005. This is a noteworthy difference from the information reported by the Department."

"We are concerned this report may generate confusion about this important issue. As the State of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island General Assembly continue to address difficult budget and policy issues, this report does a disservice to policymakers. We urge the Department to rescind this report until it accurately reflects the uncompensated care provided by hospitals."

Founded over a half century ago, the Hospital Association of Rhode Island is a statewide trade organization that assists member hospitals in effectively meeting the health care needs of Rhode Island, through advocacy, representation, education and services. HARI members work collaboratively to improve the quality of care delivered and address issues threatening access to health care including increasing health costs, workforce shortages and decreasing reimbursement. HARI members work together to ensure that all Rhode Islanders will receive comprehensive, high quality health care.

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