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Hospitals Provide \$6 Billion Boost to Local Economy

As Major Employers and Purchasers, Hospitals are Critical to the State's Economic Viability

CRANSTON, R.I. – Feb. 9, 2009 – Seven of the 20 largest employers in Rhode Island are hospitals. But, hospitals' economic impact on our community doesn't stop there. Their purchases of goods and services necessary to deliver quality patient care create a ripple effect throughout the local economy, creating additional jobs and spending. In total, hospitals estimated annual economic impact approaches \$6 billion with nearly 34,000 jobs created.

These and other contributions to the local economy are outlined in a recent report by HARI. Highlights include:

- Employing 20,370 health care professionals – 5% of private sector employment in Rhode Island
- Paying \$1.6 billion in wages – 10% of the state's private sector payroll
- Spending \$1 billion each year on goods and services
- Dedicating \$200 million to improving facilities and upgrading technology

The full report can be viewed at <http://www.hari.org/pubs/09economicimpact.pdf>

“Hospitals are critical to the economic viability of our state,” said Edward J. Quinlan, president, Hospital Association of Rhode Island. “To continue to attract jobs to and keep families in our state, it is critical that we have high quality health care providers and services. We urge our elected officials and community leaders to recognize that our hospitals are instrumental to a healthy, strong and desirable Rhode Island.”

The report was produced in collaboration with the Healthcare Association of New York State using data reported annually by hospitals to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

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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