

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

JOINT RESOLUTION

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$250,000 TO THE HOSPITAL CARE TRANSITIONS INITIATIVE (HCTI)

Introduced By: Senator Louis P. DiPalma

Date Introduced: March 01, 2024

Referred To: Senate Finance

1 WHEREAS, Rhode Island's long-term care services and supports spending is weighted
2 toward institutional care, and spending on home- and community-based services is well below the
3 national average; and

4 WHEREAS, The State considers shifting long-term care spending from institutional to
5 community supports a priority, and in the best interests of residents, communities, the State
6 budget, and our economy; and

7 WHEREAS, The average cost to RI's Medicaid program of a long-term skilled nursing
8 facility stay is more than \$65,000; and

9 WHEREAS, Research shows that older adults who are able to live out their lives in their
10 homes have better health and quality of life outcomes; and

11 WHEREAS, A significant number of patients express a preference to return home rather
12 than undergoing extended stays in skilled nursing facilities; and

13 WHEREAS, The Hospital Care Transitions Initiative (HCTI), a partnership between the
14 Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services and RIPIN, is designed to support
15 high-risk older patients discharging from a hospital setting to allow them to return home and
16 avoid prolonged stays in skilled nursing facilities; and

17 WHEREAS, The HCTI program embeds certified community health workers on
18 discharge teams at three hospitals: South County Hospital, Kent Hospital, and Rhode Island
19 Hospital; and

1 WHEREAS, The HCTI program has operated successfully for three years, actively
2 engaged over 1,000 discharging patients, currently supports approximately 50 discharges per
3 month, and 75 percent of HCTI patients successfully discharge to home; and

4 WHEREAS, The HCTI program is an innovative program to prevent Medicaid-financed
5 extended stays in skilled nursing facilities before they start, thereby improving health outcomes,
6 honoring patient preferences, and reducing Medicaid expenditures; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not
8 otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year 2024-2025, the sum of two hundred fifty thousand
9 dollars (\$250,000) to RIPIN to continue the operation of the Hospital Care Transitions Initiative,
10 with that expectation that such funds will be matched by federal Medicaid funds; and the state
11 controller is hereby authorized and directed to draw his orders upon the general treasurer for the
12 payment of said sum, upon receipt of properly authenticated vouchers.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
JOINT RESOLUTION
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$250,000 TO THE HOSPITAL CARE TRANSITIONS
INITIATIVE (HCTI)

- 1 This resolution would authorize the appropriation of the sum of \$250,000 to the Hospital
- 2 Care Transitions Initiative.

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