TEMPLATE FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR AHEAD MODEL

DATE

Richard Charest

Secretary

RI Executive Office of Health and Human Services 3 West Road

Cranston, RI 02920

Dear Secretary Charest:

I write to you today as a member of Rhode Island’s primary care community.

*Describe your role: payer, provider, advocate, etc.*

I think it is important that you know how strongly I support Rhode Island’s application to the CMS Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation’s Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for **Cohort 3** of the **States Advancing All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development (AHEAD) Model**.

The AHEAD Model provides Rhode Island the opportunity to introduce strategic and deliberate coordination of the multiple initiatives pursued at the provider, payor, and state level. For example, the model requires:

*(select one aspect to highlight and elaborate why this is important to you or refer to these* [*slides*](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/ahead-model-primary-care-webinar-slides.pdf) *for AHEAD Model goals and highlight one of them – examples below)*

that behavioral health is integrated across settings. The AHEAD Model could enhance efforts to ensure the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics are well integrated in the state’s overall health care landscape..

alignment between Medicare, Medicaid and commercial payors. This alignment could significantly reduce provider administrative burden.

an increased investment in primary care. This aligns well with OHIC’s potential review of primary care rates and Medicaid’s pediatric rate increase.

a Medicaid Primary Care Alternative Payment Model. This could be an opportunity to transition to a new version of the Accountable Entity Program.

Rhode Island is well-situated to apply for and be selected to implement the AHEAD Model. We already have in place several of the foundational components the model requires. These include experience with establishing and monitoring cost targets and primary care investments, implementing Total Cost of Care models, such as EOHHS’ Accountable Entity Model, and advancing health equity through efforts such as the Health Equity Zones.

The AHEAD Model gives us the opportunity to ensure Rhode Islanders have access to a coordinated and sustainable health care system that places high-quality, comprehensive primary care at its core. I am ready and willing to support the state’s application in any way I can. Please do not hesitate to let me know how I can assist.

Sincerely,