

**RhodeIsland1115Waiver - UEMF Comments re: RI 1115 Waiver Extension Request**

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**From:** Michael Ryan <mryan@advocacysolutionsllc.com>  
**To:** <RhodeIsland1115Waiver@ohhs.ri.gov>  
**Date:** 3/1/2013 2:01 PM  
**Subject:** UEMF Comments re: RI 1115 Waiver Extension Request

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Dear Secretary Costantino:

On behalf of the physicians and staff at University Emergency Medicine Foundation (UEMF), I write to express our support for Rhode Island's 1115 Waiver Extension Request ("Request to Extend the Rhode Island 1115 Research and Demonstration Waiver Project No. 11-W-0024/1"). UEMF is the academic emergency medicine physician practice plan of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Our physicians and mid-level providers staff the emergency departments at Rhode Island Hospital, The Miriam Hospital, and Hasbro Children's Hospital.

Specifically, we would like to express our support for the inclusion of the STOP (Sobering Treatment Opportunity Program) initiative in the Waiver Extension Request. The STOP initiative is designed to provide "chronic inebriates" who often cycle through the emergency department with a more appropriate and clinically effective alternative treatment setting. At Rhode Island Hospital alone, fifteen of these clients accounted for 1,793 emergency department visits in 2012.

This ineffective cycle is costly for health care providers, hospitals, municipalities, and state government. The STOP initiative presents an opportunity to provide more clinically effective and less costly treatment alternatives. By continuing to work collaboratively with all interested parties, the state can create a program that reduces inappropriate emergency room utilization while providing these clients with better connections to treatment, recovery and housing options.

While the STOP initiative is still in the development stage, we are confident that state government, the medical community, and Rhode Island's drug and alcohol treatment experts can create a program that will serve as a model for other states.

We look forward to working with officials from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services on this important program.

Warm Regards,

Brian Zink, MD

President,  
University  
Emergency

Medicine  
Foundation

Chair, Department of Emergency Medicine, Brown University