

For Immediate Release

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Hospitals Provide \$6.3 Billion Boost to Local Economy *As Major Employers and Purchasers, Hospitals are Critical to the State's Economic Viability*

CRANSTON, R.I. – March 23, 2011 – Hospitals care for Rhode Islanders on more than two million occasions each year. However, hospitals' impact on our community does not stop there. They are a major economic engine in our state. Their purchases of goods and services necessary to deliver quality patient care create a ripple effect throughout the local economy, producing additional jobs and spending. In total, hospitals' estimated economic impact in 2009 was more than \$6.3 billion and accounted for 39,200 jobs.

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

- Employing 20,900 health care professionals – 5% of private sector employment in Rhode Island
- Paying \$1.7 billion in wages – nearly 11% of the state's private sector payroll
- Spending more than \$1 billion each year on goods and services
- Dedicating \$180 million to improving facilities and upgrading technology

The full report can be viewed at www.hari.org/pubs/11_economicimpact.pdf

“Hospitals are critical to a vibrant Rhode Island,” said Edward J. Quinlan, president, Hospital Association of Rhode Island. “To continue to attract jobs to and keep families in our state, we must 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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