



*For Immediate Release*

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## **Paiva Weed Appointed President of HARI**

**PROVIDENCE, RI – March 22, 2017** – M. Teresa Paiva Weed has been appointed president of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI), where she will oversee day-to-day operations of the association and direct member services. Paiva Weed joins HARI following the departure of Michael Souza who has served as president since 2014.

“The HARI Board of Trustees is proud to have Teresa Paiva Weed lead the organization,” said Christopher Lehrach, MD, chair of the HARI Board of Trustees. “Teresa has spent more than two decades advocating for Rhode Islanders as a state senator. We believe her skills, insight and dedication to our state make her the ideal candidate as we work to ensure access to affordable, quality healthcare for all Rhode Islanders.”

“I am honored to lead HARI,” said Paiva Weed. “Hospitals not only care for Rhode Islanders in their greatest time of need, they are also central to a strong economy. I look forward to working to protect this important mission.”

Paiva Weed was first elected to the Rhode Island Senate in 1992. In January 2009, she was elected by her colleagues to serve as president of the Senate. During her time as a legislator, she was a major developer of the RItE Care program, lead sponsor of legislation creating CurrentCare, and played a key role in several important public health bills including mental health, substance abuse, and lead poisoning. She is also an independent legal practitioner.

Paiva Weed received a juris doctor degree from Catholic University – Columbus School of Law and bachelor’s degree from Providence College. She has been recognized by the National Association of Social Workers, Rhode Island Center for Hispanic Policy and Advocacy, Rhode Island Council of Community Health Centers, Community Provider Network, The United Way, American Heart Association and the Rhode Island Department of Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

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*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, rising drug prices and decreasing reimbursement. HARI members work together to ensure that all Rhode Islanders will receive comprehensive, high-quality health care.*