

No: 2026-20

**Town of Middletown, Rhode Island**  
**Resolution Supporting the Continued Operation of the Newport Hospital Birthing Center**  
**and Rhode Island House Bill H7272**

**WHEREAS**, the Newport Hospital Birthing Center is the only maternity care facility located on Aquidneck Island and provides essential obstetric and newborn services to residents of Middletown and surrounding communities; and

**WHEREAS**, continued local access to maternity care is critical to public health, patient safety, emergency preparedness, and timely care for expectant mothers and newborns; and

**WHEREAS**, the closure of the Newport Hospital Birthing Center would require residents to seek care off-island, increasing travel times, straining regional healthcare systems, and potentially impacting maternal and infant health outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, Rhode Island House Bill H7272, *An Act Relating to Health and Safety – The Hospital Conversions Act*, seeks to strengthen state oversight of hospital service changes and closures to protect community access to essential healthcare services; and

**WHEREAS**, meaningful legislative oversight is an important tool to ensure that decisions affecting critical healthcare services consider community needs, public health impacts, and regional capacity;

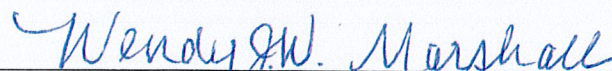
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Middletown Town Council affirms the importance of keeping the Newport Hospital Birthing Center open and operational; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Middletown Town Council respectfully urges members of the Rhode Island General Assembly to support and enact House Bill H7272, *An Act Relating to Health and Safety – The Hospital Conversions Act*; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Town Council encourages continued collaboration among healthcare providers, state officials, and municipal leaders to preserve access to essential maternity and hospital services on Aquidneck Island; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Rhode Island General Assembly delegation representing Middletown, the Rhode Island Department of Health, and the leadership of Newport Hospital.

FEBRUARY 17, 2026  
READ AND PASSED IN COUNCIL



Wendy J.W. Marshall, MMC  
Town Clerk

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