



LETTERS

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R.I. Needs to Retain Investment Tax Credit

I agree with the premise in John Kostrzewa's recent column — it is time for Rhode Island to maintain and increase their focus, support and recognition of small businesses within this state. We started our home infusion and clinical research company during the summer of 2008 in the midst of the worst economy in decades, and since then have created 14 professional jobs.

The Rhode Island Economic Development Council provided valuable support as we were awarded tax credits and work force training grants to assist with both raising investment capital from local entrepreneurs and recruiting and properly training employees — many of our new hires had been unemployed. Unfortunately, it appears the governor's tax reform panel, as reported in The Providence Journal on March 9, is not supporting keeping the Investment Tax Credit grant, which I believe is a mistake. Eliminating this grant compounds the problem of limited access to bank capital.

As a business that was founded to improve patient care and reduce health-care spending, we have enjoyed early success. Many physicians, hospitals and payers have been supportive of our local company as we compete with publicly traded businesses. Their patient referrals will continue to enable our company to create jobs in this local market, and have a greater economic impact as we support several local businesses. It's "Main Street versus Wall Street" — our customers get the message, let's hope the government does as well.

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