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TTY: 771
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January 30, 2024

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr., Chair
House Committee on Corporations
State House
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: H 7083 – An Act Relating to Businesses and Profession – Physician Assistance
Licensing Compact Act**

H 7141 – An Act relating to Businesses and Professions – Counseling Compact

**H 7213 – An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions – Rhode Island Physical therapist
Licensure Compact Act**

Dear Chair Solomon:

Please accept this letter regarding H 7083, H 7141, and H 7213 which contemplate Rhode Island's participation in multi-state licensure compacts for Physician Assistants, Professional Counselors, and Physical Therapists respectively.

Please know the Rhode Island Department of Health's (RIDOH) Center for Professional Boards and Licensing is currently reviewing these proposals at the programmatic level and seeking input from the associated boards of professional licensure to carefully analyze the impact joining these compacts will have on both the initial licensure, disciplinary processes, and any changes they may make to current licensure requirements.

RIDOH has long supported licensure compacts as a vehicle to increase accessibility to healthcare services from a larger and more diverse pool of practitioners and streamline the licensure process for appropriately trained and credentialed professionals. Careful consideration must be given, however, to how compacts obligate Rhode Island to accept or investigate disciplinary complaints from other jurisdictions.

Additionally, the committee should be informed that there is a cost to the State for operationalizing compacts. Joining any multistate compact would require configuration of data-sharing capability between RIDOH's licensing system *My License Office (MLO)* and compact infrastructure. RIDOH was recently able to finance implementation of the Nurse Licensure

Compact in 2023 through a \$200,000 grant secured by RIDOH from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. RIDOH would need additional information on implementation costs and timing before committing to participation in the compacts.

We look forward to working with the Committee, our professional boards, our State's professional organizations and compact administration to learn more about each compact's requirements and potential benefits to both regulated professionals and patients here in Rhode Island.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,



Utpala Bandy, MD, MPH
Interim Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Corporations
The Honorable Kathleen A. Fogarty
The Honorable Rebecca M. Kislak
The Honorable Michelle E. McGaw
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel for the Speaker of the House of Representatives
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy
