



M. Teresa Paiva Weed  
President

March 7, 2024

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.  
House Corporations Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: SUPPORT – H. 7350

Dear Chairman Solomon:

The Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) and its members support H.7350 by Representative Caldwell, an act relating to the Social Work Licensure Compact (SWLC).

HARI supports the adoption of the Social Work Licensure Compact (SWLC) for several reasons, all of which contribute to the overall improvement of healthcare services and the well-being of patients and communities.

- **Address Workforce Shortages:** The SWLC provides a mechanism to address workforce shortages by allowing licensed social workers to practice across state lines, expanding the pool of available professionals.
- **Enhance Access to Qualified Social Workers:** The SWLC facilitates the mobility of social workers, enabling them to practice in multiple states without the need for obtaining additional licenses. This increased flexibility enhances access to highly qualified social workers, ensuring that hospitals can attract and retain skilled professionals to meet the diverse needs of their patients.
- **Improve Continuity of Care:** Healthcare requires a continuum of care, and patients may need social work services even when they travel or relocate. The SWLC supports continuity of care by allowing social workers to seamlessly provide their services across state borders, ensuring that patients receive consistent and uninterrupted support.
- **Support Relocating Military Families:** By allowing social workers to practice in different states, the compact supports the needs of military spouses and ensures that they can continue their professional practice as they move from one duty station to another.

HARI thanks you for your consideration and appreciates the support and assistance that the committee provides to our members so that they are best positioned to care for their patients and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Tomasso", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Lisa P. Tomasso  
Senior Vice President