



RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

Chairman Joseph J. Solomon
House Corporations Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

2025-HB 5108 - Expanding Pathways for Internationally Trained Physicians

SUPPORT

February 25, 2025

Dear Chairperson Solomon:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS), I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 5108, which you have sponsored, to allow internationally trained physicians to practice in rural and underserved communities through a mentorship alternative to the residency requirement. This bill represents an important step toward addressing Rhode Island's worsening physician shortage, particularly in primary care and other essential specialties, ensuring that all residents have access to timely, high-quality medical care.

Rhode Island is experiencing significant challenges in ensuring patients have access to primary care providers and specialists, as physician shortages continue to grow. The ability to recruit and retain physicians has become increasingly difficult due to inadequate reimbursement rates, excessive administrative burdens—particularly related to prior authorizations—and a complex malpractice landscape. While House Bill 5108 is an important step toward strengthening the healthcare workforce, it must be part of a broader effort to create a more sustainable and competitive environment that encourages physicians to build their careers in Rhode Island.

By streamlining licensure for internationally trained physicians, Rhode Island can:

- Expand access to care, alleviating growing wait times and provider shortages.
- Strengthen the healthcare workforce, ensuring that skilled physicians can practice in the communities that need them most.
- Retain and utilize the expertise of internationally trained physicians already in our state, rather than losing them to non-clinical roles or to states with more flexible licensing pathways.

We greatly appreciate your leadership in advancing this legislation and strongly urge the committee to support House Bill 5108 and move it forward for passage.

We also look forward to working with you on broader efforts to ensure that Rhode Island remains a competitive and attractive place for physicians to practice by addressing reimbursement, administrative burdens, and malpractice reform. Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue, and please do not hesitate to reach out if we can provide further information or support.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Stavros, MD
President