



Date: February 25, 2025

TO: Rep. Joseph Solomon, Chair  
Members, House Corporations Committee

FROM: Carol Costa, Executive Director  
Senior Agenda Coalition of RI

RE: [H5108](#), AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND DISCIPLINE **ENTITLED**,

The Senior Agenda Coalition of RI (SACRI) is pleased to support H5108 sponsored by Representatives Solomon, Casimiro, Cruz, McNamara, Lombardi, Ackerman, Cortvriend, Biah, McGaw, Marszalkowski.

SACRI's mission is to mobilize people to implement an agenda that improves the quality of life of older Rhode Islanders and adults with disabilities. We accomplish this through *community organizing, public education, advocacy, and legislative action*. Promoting timely access to needed healthcare ranks as one of SACRI's top priorities.

We commend Rep. Solomon and the bill's co-sponsors for introducing the legislation as one of several ways to address the crisis impacting our state's primary care providers and the many persons attempting to find a primary care practice accepting new patients. This is a particular challenge for persons living in Rhode Island's rural and underserved communities with physician shortages. need.

The bill sets up a process in which an internationally trained physician licensed in another country can apply for a renewable one-year license which would provide a pathway for issuance of a full unrestricted license upon meeting specific criteria.

As noted in ***Primary Care in Rhode Island***, a December 2023 Office of Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) report, "A robust and resilient system of primary care is necessary to support the health and well-being of Rhode Islanders." While access to primary care is important for persons of all ages, it is critically important for older adults who tend to have greater healthcare needs as a result of chronic conditions needing ongoing monitoring and treatment maintenance to promote optimal health. Access to primary care is equally important for addressing emergent needs as delays in diagnosis and treatment can exacerbate conditions leading to costly emergency room visits at 12 times the cost of primary care as well as inpatient hospitalizations.

Thank you for your considering SACRI's support for this bill as you make recommendations regarding its passage.