

June 5, 2025

The Honorable Representative Joseph J. Solomon, Jr. Chair, House Corporations (Submitted via House <u>Corporation@rilegislature.gov</u>)

Re: H5108 An Act Relating To Businesses And Professions -- Board Of Medical Licensure And Discipline

Dear Chair Solomon and Members of the House Corporations Committee:

Please accept the Rhode Island Health Center Association's letter of support for House Bill 5108, which would allow internationally trained physicians to practice at healthcare facilities in rural and underserved communities.

Rhode Island faces a shortage of healthcare providers, especially in underserved communities. One solution to these shortages is skilled and experienced foreign-trained physicians.

Many foreign-trained physicians complete rigorous medical training and have practical experience in diverse healthcare environments. Additionally, their knowledge, adaptability, and cultural competence can help to enhance patient trust, especially in communities where language and cultural understanding can significantly impact healthcare outcomes.

By designing pathways for foreign-trained healthcare providers, we can welcome skilled professionals in Rhode Island and strengthen our healthcare system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Melissa Campbell

Melissa Campbell Policy Manager

The Rhode Island Health Center Association health center members include: Blackstone Valley Community Health Care Inc. Comprehensive Community Action Program ~ East Bay Community Action Program Providence Community Health Centers ~ Thundermist Health Center Tri-County Community Action Agency ~ WellOne Primary Medical and Dental Care Wood River Health