



RI Department of Health
Three Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5097

TTY: 771
www.health.ri.gov

April 2, 2026

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

RE: H 8242 – An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions – Wellness and Oversight for Psychological Resources Act

Dear Chair Solomon:

Please accept this letter regarding H 8242, legislation that would establish an oversight process which would safeguard individuals seeking therapy or psychotherapy services by ensuring that the services are delivered by qualified, licensed, or certified professionals. This proposal would also protect consumers from unlicensed or unqualified providers, including unregulated artificial intelligence (AI) systems, while respecting individual choice and access to community-based and faith-based mental health support. This act would take effect upon passage.

While the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) applauds the goal of this bill to protect patients, we suggest that because advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) have specific population foci on their licenses based on their training and experience, this bill should only apply to APRNs with a population focus in psychiatric/mental health. Additionally, the definition of licensed professionals who would be subject to the provisions of H 8242 includes individuals who do not hold professional licenses.

The proposed legislation impacts multiple state agencies that share licensure and oversight responsibility, including RIDOH, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) and the Office of Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC). Therefore, a comprehensive review across these agencies is necessary to ensure that there are no unintended consequences and the legislation is implemented as intended.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome M. Larkin".

Jerome M. Larkin, MD
Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Corporations
The Honorable Mary Ann Shallcross Smith
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy