



The Honorable Joseph M. McNamara  
Members of the House Education Committee  
House Committee on Education  
State House Room 101  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

March 3, 2026

**RE: March 3th House Finance Committee hearing on H. 7418**

Dear Chair McNamara and members of the House Education Committee,

I write in regard to H. 7418, which would provide for the establishment of a public medical and dental school at the University of Rhode Island.

URI has been an active participant in the Senate Legislative Commission to explore the feasibility of a public medical school. After more than a year of study and thoughtful discussion, this process has concluded, culminating in the report provided by the Commission. (Report available at <https://www.rilegislature.gov/commissions/RIPRCAPHWOED/commdocs/Commission%20Repot%20FINAL.pdf>).

The thorough feasibility study was conducted in consultation with Tripp Umbach, a nationally-recognized expert in the field of medical school feasibility studies and economic impact reports, and the Commission's final report recommended the establishment of an MD-granting medical school at URI. A dental school was not evaluated in this feasibility study.

The University will continue to work in close partnership with the State to explore establishing a public medical school. URI is well-positioned to lead a next-generation public medical school with a focus on primary care because of our strengths in nursing, health sciences, public health, pharmacy, physical therapy, and nutrition.

We look forward to our continued partnership with the State as we work together on a long- term solution to address Rhode Island's primary care crisis.

Kind regards,

  
Marc Parlange  
President

cc: Governor Daniel McKee  
Speaker Joe Shekarchi  
Senate President Valarie Lawson