



**BROWN**  
Department of  
Family Medicine



**Testimony in Support of the  
Thundermist Family Medicine Residency Program  
and Teaching Health Centers**

May 15, 2025

Submitted by: Caroline Richardson, MD  
Chair of Family Medicine, The Warren Alpert Medical School  
of Brown University

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Caroline Richardson and I serve as Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. I write today in strong support of the Thundermist Family Medicine Residency Program and the broader Teaching Health Center model.

As the chair of the department that runs Rhode Island's only existing Family Medicine residency program, I have facilitated support for Thundermist's new residency proposal from our department, Brown Department of Family Medicine. We have been strong supporters of Thundermist's application for federal ACGME funding from the beginning and several of our residency and ACGME leaders are named consultants on the Thundermist residency federal proposal. Thundermist's successful application for federal grant funding means that most but not all of the costs of the new residency will be covered by the federal government making it a relatively low cost, high reward investment opportunity for the state.

Opening a new Thundermist-run residency in Woonsocket will expand the number of graduating well-trained Family Medicine residents in Rhode Island each year from 16 to 20. Many of these residents will stay and practice primary care in Rhode Island. Non-academic teaching health center residencies are a proven strategy to build a workforce that is skilled, resilient, and deeply committed to serving vulnerable populations.

Our academic department has a strong and positive relationship with Thundermist. Thundermist currently hosts 12 of our 48 Brown Family Medicine residents in Warwick. They do a fantastic job of providing a powerful and positive clinical experience for our learners, and we are committed to supporting the new Woonsocket Thundermist residency program from an academic perspective.

We are excited about the opportunity to develop some combined clinical and research training experiences once the new residency is up and running.

I urge you to fully support the Thundermist Family Medicine Residency Program and continued investment in Teaching Health Center models. Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to improving healthcare for all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Richardson'.

**Caroline Richardson, MD**

George A. and Marilyn M. Bray Professor of Family Medicine at Brown University  
Chair of Family Medicine - The Warren Alpert Medical School / Care New England  
Editor - Annals of Family Medicine