



NURSE PRACTITIONER ALLIANCE OF RHODE ISLAND
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May 19, 2025

Representative Marvin Abney, Chair
House Committee on Finance

RI General Assembly
RI State House
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: Testimony in FAVOR of House Bill: H 5526: RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES-
THUNDERMIST FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAM**

Dear Chair Abney:

I, Denise Coppa, from House District 31 and Legislative Liaison, of the Nurse Practitioner Alliance of Rhode Island, Director of the Family Nurse Practitioner Program at the University of RI and a practicing nurse practitioner in pediatrics at Hasbro Children's, write in support of 5526, to provide the state funding needed to initiate and sustain financial support of the proposed Thundermist Family Medicine Residency Program and continued investment in Teaching Health Center initiatives.

Data from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) estimate that by 2030 2030, our state may face a shortage of as many as 200 to 300 primary care providers. This includes physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants, who choose to embark on and continue their careers in primary health care. Supporting this proposed, approved by the Health Services and Resources Association (HRSA), will expand the state's supply of medical school graduates who commit to the practice of primary health care in Rhode Island.

In addition to improving access to care, investments in Teaching Health Centers yield significant economic benefits. Residency programs attract new providers, including nurse practitioners, retain talent, and stimulate local economies through job creation, training opportunities, and partnerships with hospitals, university based graduate programs for nurse practitioners and other community organizations. Programs like the Thundermist Family Medicine Residency will help anchor physicians in our communities for the long term, building a sustainable primary care system that not only improves health outcomes but also strengthens the social and economic fabric of Rhode Island. Ultimately, this addition of primary care investment will provide a foundation to support preceptorships for nurse practitioner students in clinical settings, as well.

Our organization urges your leadership in the support of this program, essential to the growth of the number of primary care providers in Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Denise Coppa, PHD, APRN-CNP, FAANP, FAAN
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