

April 30, 2026

The Honorable Marvin Abney
Chair, House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for H7686 – Primary Care Training Sites Program

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the Committee:

My name is **Dr Carol O’Shea** and I am from **Cumberland**. I am a **provider** with **P.R.I.M.A. Inc, a pediatric practice.**] I am writing in **strong support** of Rhode Island House Bill 7686.

This bill is important to me because **as a primary care provider who has witnessed multiple practices closing secondary to retirements, we are an aging group. It is important that we continue to develop new providers interest in primary care, if we expect to care for our population in the future.**

As you know, Rhode Island faces a growing shortage of primary care clinicians. Patients are increasingly unable to find a primary care provider, and practices are struggling to recruit and retain physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants because our reimbursement is so much less than our neighboring states.

The Primary Care Training Sites Program is a proactive and strategic investment in Rhode Island’s future healthcare workforce. It supports community-based primary care preceptors who train medical students and residents, nurse practitioner students, and physician assistant students in advanced primary care settings. These clinical experiences are essential to encouraging more clinicians to choose careers in primary care and to stay and practice in Rhode Island.

The program was implemented in July 2025 and is already showing strong results. There are currently **34 primary care training sites** across the state, with more than **130 preceptors enrolled**. The program has expanded access to clinical training opportunities by **68%**, increasing from **354 trainees** to a projected **594 trainees** this academic year.

Without continued funding, Rhode Island risks losing momentum at a time when our state cannot afford to step backward. In this first year alone, **nine practices were waitlisted**, showing that demand already exceeds available funding.

Continued investment in this program will help Rhode Island:

- Expand primary care clinical training opportunities across the state;
- Build the pipeline of future primary care clinicians;
- Support preceptors with mentorship, resources, and professional development; and

- Strengthen access to primary care for patients and families statewide.

I respectfully urge you to vote in favor of H7686.

Sincerely,
Carol O'Shea MD

P.R.I.M.A. Inc

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