

To whom it may concern:

I support House Bill 7686, titled *An Act Relating to Health and Safety — Primary Care Training Sites Program*. This program is a vital investment in Rhode Island's primary care clinician workforce and a cornerstone of our long-term strategy to expand access to high-quality, community-based care.

As Chief of Development at Medical Associates of Rhode Island and a primary care doctor in Bristol for the last ten years, I have seen firsthand how critical it is to build strong, intentional connections between training programs and community practices.

Strengthening our ties to the Brown University residency programs allows us to introduce residents to the realities—and the rewards—of practicing primary care outside of an academic setting. Many trainees spend the majority of their residency within hospital systems and may not fully appreciate what a sustainable, relationship-centered, outpatient practice can look like.

Through structured training sites in community-based practices like ours, residents gain exposure to continuity of care, long-term patient relationships, and the operational aspects of running a primary care practice. Just as importantly, they see that primary care can be both professionally fulfilling and personally sustainable. These experiences are often what inspire residents to remain in Rhode Island and choose careers in primary care—decisions that are essential to addressing our state's growing workforce shortages.

While the initial one-year cycle of grant funding has been incredibly valuable in launching these efforts, it is important to recognize that programs like this require a longer time horizon to demonstrate their full impact. The pathway to becoming a practicing physician is extensive—four years of medical school followed by at least three years of residency training. As such, the benefits of having a medical student or resident train in my office today may not be realized for many years. Sustained, multi-year investment is essential to ensure that early exposure translates into long-term workforce gains for Rhode Island.

House Bill 7686 will help formalize and expand these opportunities, ensuring that more residents can train in diverse, high-quality community settings. This is not only an investment in education, but in the health and well-being of our communities.

I urge you to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Sarah Riedo, MD

Primary Care Physician

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