Chris O'Brien

From: Elizabeth Niemiec <esniemiec@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2021 7:32 PM
To: House Finance Committee; Chris O'Brien; Rep. Abney, Marvin L.; Rep. Vella-Wilkinson, Camille; Rep. Tobon, Carlos E.; Rep. Ruggiero, Deborah; Rep. Quattrocchi, Robert J.; Rep. O'Brien, William W.; Rep. Nardone, George A.; Rep. Hull, Raymond A.; Rep. Edwards, John G.; Rep. Diaz, Grace; Rep. Barros, Jean P.; Rep. Baginski, Jacquelyn M.; Rep. Amore, Gregg; Rep. Marszalkowski, Alex; Rep. Slater, Scott; Rep. Shekarchi, K Joseph; Rep. Blazejewski, Christopher R.; Rep. Filippi, Blake A.; Rep. Chippendale, Michael W.; Rep. Serpa, Patricia A.; Rep. Bennett, David A.
Subject: Testimony Against H6122, Article 15, Section 1, Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

It would be a major mistake for Rhode Island to join the failing Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. Please remove the Compact language from the budget bill. The Compact is misleadingly promoted as increasing license portability. In reality it creates another layer of bureaucracy controlled by an out-of-state commission. There are reports of serious concerns about disorganization at the Compact Commission and 34% of the Commissioner seats were recently vacant. There is absolutely no need for the state to board this sinking ship. Rhode Island has already streamlined its licensure process during the ongoing emergency and the legislature should implement permanent state specific measures that best fit the needs of Rhode Islanders. For example, legislation like H 7801 (2020), would create a beneficial reciprocal license process, similar to the governor's executive order, without added bureaucracy.

Thank you for considering this important request.

Elizabeth Niemiec, MD
Newport, RI