



March 11, 2024

House Committee on Health and Human Services
Rhode Island State House
HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov

Re: Testimony SUPPORTING House Bill 7696, prohibiting any agreement whereby an advanced practice registered nurse is restricted in the right to practice in a certain geographic area, assist or provide treatment or establish a professional relationship with any other employer.

Dear Chair Donovan and Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of House Bill 7696.

ABC-RI advocates for residents of long-term care facilities, which are in crisis due to a lack of staff willing to work for low wages and with little support. We need to enact all reasonable legislation which will make it easier for direct care staff to practice in RI without compromising care. Non-compete clauses prevent licensed nurses from working when there is a dire need for them, and benefit neither workers nor residents/patients. We urge you to pass H7696 to eliminate one barrier to a more robust care workforce in RI.

Thank you for your time and attention, and for all of your work on behalf of all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Gerard,
ABC-RI