

Alexander Lubin, MD
Urologic Specialists of New England
Bill 2024-H 8072 – In Favor

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Alex Lubin, and I am a Urologist with Urologic Specialists of New England, a private practice based in West Warwick. I have been practicing in the state of Rhode Island for about 6 years now. I am originally from CT, and was looking to come back to the East Coast after completing my residency training. At the time, I was ignorant to the fact that RI reimbursement rates were so disproportionate. I was drawn to RI for many reasons, but had I known I could make about 20% more money doing the same amount of work an hour or so North or South, taking one of those jobs would have been the obvious choice.

However, I have been establishing roots in RI for the last several years, which makes moving not so straightforward. For one, I am now a partial owner in my practice and I am acutely aware of the thin margins medical practices run on, and how easy it can be to go under. I am also intimately involved in the recruitment of providers. We have been trying to hire new providers for over 2 years now with very little success. I believe people are more aware of the reimbursement disparities in the region and this ultimately places us at a substantial disadvantage. We simply cannot compete with the compensation rates and need to hope that there is some X-Factor that will bring practitioners to our state.

This stagnation in attracting new talent only contributes to overbooked schedules and physician burnout, which in turn further worsens Rhode Islanders' access to healthcare. This is not about doctors being greedy and seizing an opportunity to increase salaries. It's about preventing RI from becoming a healthcare desert. It's about making sure we can be competitive in the region.

Passing Bill 2024-H 8072 will dramatically improve the healthcare landscape of RI. It will allow hospitals, and private practices like mine to recruit and retain new talent, ensure safe working environments, reduce wait times, and help eliminate delays in care. It will help make sure that we have a real chance of surviving and even thriving in today's healthcare landscape. I strongly support Bill 2024-H 8072 and urge you all to support it too.

Sincerely,

Alex Lubin