

Christopher DiMarco, MD

Providence, RI

Written Testimony of Christopher DiMarco, MD

Support for Bill 2024-H 8072.

Representative Susan R. Donovan and members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Christopher DiMarco, MD and I wish to support House Bill 2024-H 8072. I live in Providence, RI and practice dermatology in East Providence and provide dermatopathology services for practices and patients all over the state. I work as a dermatologist and dermatopathologist for Brown Dermatology. I am also a board member of Rhode Island Dermatology Society and Rhode Island Medical Society. I am speaking on behalf of myself and not as a representative of my work or the societies that I represent.

I support 2024-H 8072 because we need better reimbursements in the state so we can recruit providers to the state. We have lost 10% of our practice providers in the past year alone, almost all of them to Massachusetts. We have many others turn down joining us because every offer they get from practices outside of Rhode Island are more than we can afford, this includes only 3 of the 44 residents from our dermatology residency in the last 10 years who are currently practicing in the state.

This has caused large impacts on the care I can provide to patients. Currently, I have a wait list for non-emergent skin surgeries that still has patients from last October just waiting to be scheduled to have the surgery done. However, I must hold off booking them so that any skin cancers and biopsies can be done promptly. I must book patients I see in the emergency room at Miriam and Rhode Island Hospital over 3 months out because all my urgent spots have already been filled with additional patients overbooked before that. This is not sustainable and makes it difficult to give patients stronger medications if I cannot follow them in a reliable time frame. This has only gotten progressively worse as providers have left our practice and I have to try and take over care of their patients. We need to be able to compete with our neighboring states if we are going to be able to retain and recruit physicians to care for Rhode Island's patients. Otherwise, they will continue to receive worse care here and many will go elsewhere to get their healthcare only exacerbating the issues as the healthcare money flows from Rhode Island into Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Thank you for your time and please consider supporting 2024-H 8072.