



RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

Honorable Susan Donovan, Chair
House Health and Human Services Committee
Room 135
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: 24HB-8346

SUPPORT

June 11, 2024

Dear Chair Donovan,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Medical Society we express our strong support of H 8346 and S2181, which seeks to lift the sunset provision on the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC).

First, we extend our gratitude to Representative Casimiro and Senator Valverde for introducing this important legislation. The IMLC is a crucial tool for addressing the physician shortage affecting our state and many others. By streamlining the process for physicians to obtain licensure in multiple states, the compact significantly expands the pool of qualified medical professionals available to practice in Rhode Island. This is vital for meeting the healthcare needs of our population and ensuring access to timely and specialized care.

Despite the compact's passage, the necessary regulations for its implementation have not been promulgated, preventing the realization of its benefits. Lifting the sunset provision is essential to ensure the compact remains a viable option for improving healthcare delivery in our state.

The IMLC facilitates continuity of care for patients who cross state lines. For example, a pediatrician in Rhode Island can continue to provide care for a patient attending college in Connecticut, ensuring consistent and familiar medical attention despite the distance. This capability is invaluable for maintaining the quality of care and the trust patients place in their healthcare providers.

Lifting the sunset provision on the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact is a necessary and prudent action. It will enable the full implementation of the compact, providing a robust mechanism to alleviate the physician shortage and improve patient care across state lines. We urge the committee to support H 8346 and help us move toward a more integrated and responsive healthcare system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Respectfully,

Heather Smith, MD, MPH
President

