



RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

Chair Susan Donovan
House Health and Human Service Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

2025-HB 5303 - Healthcare Professional Complaint History Transparency Act

OPPOSE

February 25, 2025

Dear Chair Donovan:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS), I am writing to express our strong opposition to House Bill 5303, which seeks to create a searchable database of healthcare professionals' complaint histories accessible to employers. While we fully support transparency and accountability in healthcare, we have serious concerns that this legislation, as written, could misrepresent physicians' professional records, undermine due process, and further exacerbate Rhode Island's healthcare workforce crisis.

A public database of complaints—without clear distinctions between unsubstantiated claims, minor infractions, and serious violations—risks creating a misleading and incomplete picture of a physician's professional history. Given the highly regulated nature of medicine, physicians already undergo rigorous oversight, including licensing board reviews, peer assessments, and background checks. Adding another layer of public reporting without appropriate context could deter physicians from practicing in Rhode Island, at a time when we are already struggling to recruit and retain healthcare providers.

Additionally, House Bill 5303 lacks adequate safeguards to ensure that physicians can fairly contest or correct inaccurate complaints before they are made available to employers. Mere allegations—regardless of merit—could have damaging career consequences, discouraging physicians from taking on challenging cases or practicing in underserved areas where medical complexity often leads to more frequent patient complaints.

At a time when Rhode Island is facing serious physician shortages, particularly in primary care, we must focus on policies that strengthen the workforce and protect patient access to care. House Bill 5303 threatens to create unnecessary obstacles for healthcare professionals without meaningfully improving patient safety or healthcare quality.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to reject House Bill 5303. We welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively on policies that enhance transparency while also ensuring fairness for physicians and other healthcare professionals.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can provide further insight or clarification.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Stavros, MD
President