

Steven Sepe

From: Michelle Datoli <michelledatoli@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 23, 2025 2:17 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Cc: Rep. Baginski, Jacquelyn M.; policastrogroup@gmail.com; pamela spabyinspire.com
Subject: I support Bill H-5351

401-952-2233 February 23, 2025

To Clerk Steve Sepe,

I am writing in strong support of Bill H5351, which seeks to allow aesthetic providers to work to the full extent of their scope of practice. As a longtime patient at a medical spa, I have personally experienced the benefits of receiving care in a setting that prioritizes a holistic and patient-centered approach. After seeking treatments from plastic surgeons and dermatologists, I found that the unhurried and supportive atmosphere of a medical spa best suited my needs. The providers there have become like family to me, offering not only exceptional care but also emotional support through difficult times.

However, I have recently learned that my trusted RNs and NPs are no longer allowed to perform some of my favorite procedures due to restrictive and outdated Department of Health (DOH) guidelines. These limitations make no sense, especially considering the overwhelming evidence supporting the safety and efficacy of these treatments. For example, a 12-year Stanford University study has shown that Broad Band Light (BBL) therapy alters gene expression, promoting younger, healthier skin at a cellular level. BBL reaches deep into the skin, helping to eradicate damage before it can progress into cancerous changes. This is a service provided by trained nurses and laser specialists—physicians rarely perform this procedure.

Additionally, Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) therapy is widely recognized as a safer alternative to dermal fillers, yet current regulations allow my NP injector to administer fillers but not PRP. This inconsistency raises concerns about how DOH guidelines are developed and whether they truly reflect modern medical research and best practices.

Rhode Island should be at the forefront of safe, innovative aesthetic medicine, not lagging behind. Restricting these procedures does not protect patients—it only limits access to proven treatments, drives business out of state, and jeopardizes jobs in a growing industry. I urge lawmakers to support Bill H5351 to ensure that Rhode Island residents continue to have access to safe, evidence-based aesthetic procedures performed by skilled professionals working within their full scope of practice.

Sincerely,

Michelle Datoli
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