



Howard Dulude  
Interim President

May 1, 2025

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan  
Chairperson, House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: Support H.6210 – Physician Apology

Dear Chairperson Donovan,

The Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) and its member strongly support H.6210, an act which makes statements of apology or sympathy by a health care provider inadmissible as evidence of an admission of liability regarding the unanticipated outcome of a patient's medical care and treatment.

Expressing apology or sympathy for unanticipated outcomes is important for healthcare professionals for several reasons, and creating an environment where they can do so without fear of liability is equally important. First, healthcare is inherently human. Acknowledging the emotional aspects of medical care humanizes the profession. Patients and their families appreciate healthcare providers who express genuine concern, reinforcing the understanding that healthcare professionals are compassionate individuals dedicated to their well-being.

Second, healthcare professionals often experience emotional distress when patients face adverse outcomes. Allowing them to express empathy and regret without fear of liability provides a channel for coping and healing, contributing to their overall well-being.

Finally, creating an environment where healthcare professionals can express apology or sympathy without fear of liability is essential for promoting patient-centered care, building trust, and fostering open communication. It contributes to the overall well-being of both patients and healthcare providers while supporting a culture of continuous improvement within the healthcare system.

For these reasons HARI and its members support passage of H.6210 and appreciate your commitment to the well-being of our community and your ongoing efforts to create a healthcare environment that fosters a culture of understanding and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Tomasso", is written over a faint, light blue circular stamp or watermark.

Lisa P. Tomasso  
Senior Vice President