



June 12, 2025

RI Department of Health
Three Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5097

TTY: 771
www.health.ri.gov

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan, Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services
State House
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02908

RE: H 6384 – Relating to Health and Safety -- Department of Health

Dear Chair Donovan:

Please accept this letter of support for H 6384, legislation that would grant the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) the authority to approve or deny any applications for professional licensure pending before a board of licensure that has been unable to establish a quorum for 30 business days. This Act would take effect upon passage.

For the Committee's awareness, neither the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline (BMLD), which applies to physicians, nor the Board of Examiners in Dentistry experience delays in issuing medical or dental licenses, as the board administrators (a physician for the BMLD and a dentist for the Dental Board) can approve applications without a need to convene the boards. In addition, these boards do not have issues meeting quorum requirements for their meetings. For example, in 2024, 100% of initial physician licenses were issued within 72 hours of receipt of a complete application.

RIDOH has observed delays by other licensure boards in approving applications for professional licensure. Many other boards are currently required to approve applications. Those boards may meet as seldomly as two to four times a year and may struggle to meet quorum requirements. RIDOH fully supports the language in the bill to apply to all RIDOH healthcare professional licensing boards. The more rapidly RIDOH can license healthcare professionals, the more rapidly they can enter the workforce and provide medically necessary prevention and treatment to Rhode Islanders in need of such services.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this important public health legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerome M. Larkin".

Jerome M. Larkin, MD
Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services
The Honorable Matthew S. Dawson
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy