



RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

Chairperson Carol Hagan McEntee
House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Support – H7548

February 11, 2026

Chairwoman McEntee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB7548.

I submit this testimony as President of the Rhode Island Medical Society and as an emergency physician practicing in Rhode Island for more than 17 years.

Physicians frequently care for patients and families during unexpected or difficult medical outcomes. In those moments, patients deserve honest, compassionate communication. Unfortunately, many clinicians are reluctant to offer even basic expressions of sympathy because of concern that those statements could later be interpreted as admissions of liability.

HB7548 addresses this concern by ensuring that statements of apology, sympathy, or regret related to an unanticipated outcome are not admissible as evidence of liability. The bill does not limit accountability or shield negligence. Instead, it supports open communication and reinforces trust between patients and clinicians.

Rhode Island would be joining the majority of states that have enacted similar protections recognizing that compassionate communication is an essential part of ethical medical care.

The Rhode Island Medical Society respectfully urges favorable consideration of HB7548.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nadine Himelfarb, MD
President