



# 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

Oppose- 7749

February 26, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS), representing physicians across specialties and practice settings throughout the state, we write in opposition to H 7749, which would repeal Rhode Island General Laws § 9-19-34.1.

Current law allows evidence of certain collateral source payments to be introduced in medical malpractice cases and requires damages awards to be reduced to reflect benefits already received by a plaintiff.

This framework promotes fairness by ensuring compensation reflects actual economic loss rather than duplicative recovery. Repealing § 9-19-34.1 would remove this safeguard and is likely to increase claim values, litigation costs, and malpractice insurance pressures. In a state already facing a challenging liability environment, greater unpredictability and rising costs further strain physicians and the healthcare system.

Rhode Island is confronting significant workforce shortages and barriers to patient access to care. The medical liability climate remains a meaningful factor influencing where physicians choose to practice and whether they remain in the state. Policies that increase instability within the liability system risk worsening these challenges without improving patient outcomes. RIMS supports a balanced malpractice system that fairly compensates injured patients while maintaining a sustainable environment for healthcare delivery. For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to hold H 7749.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nadine Himelfarb, MD  
President