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[www.health.ri.gov](http://www.health.ri.gov)

March 31, 2026

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chair  
House Committee on State Government and Elections  
State House  
82 Smith St.  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: H 8297 – An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Administrative Procedures**

Dear Chair Shanley:

Please accept this letter of support for H 8297, legislation that would amend the refiling process for rules and regulations under the *Administrative Procedures Act* by implementing a confirmation and attestation system to confirm agency rules and regulations are active and effective and would repeal the section of law relating to periodic refiling of rules and regulations. This legislation was introduced at the request of the Rhode Island Secretary of State.

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) currently has 135 active rules and uses the Department of State Rhode Island Code of Regulations (RICR) filing system as required in R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-4.

With this legislation, our agency will have the ability to succinctly communicate to the public all active rules, as of the day of publishing, in a single list rather than requiring that each rule be searched, selected, and viewed individually by a constituent. This will also remove public confusion caused by re-promulgating all individual regulations without changes. If this legislation does not pass, RIDOH will have to re-file all 135 rules, which we estimated will add 3-5 hours of unnecessary and burdensome administrative work.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation, which will improve government efficiency by reducing the time required to complete refiling activity and streamlining the statutory compliance process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome M. Larkin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jerome M. Larkin, MD  
Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections  
The Honorable Earl A. Read, III  
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel  
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy