



House Committee on Health and Human Services
Representative Susan R. Donovan, Chair
HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov
March 23, 2026
RE: Testimony in support of House bill 8135

Dear Chair Donovan:

As background for our support of H 8135, nurse practitioners in Rhode Island worked for and sustain full practice authority in statute, allowing us to provide comprehensive and continuous patient centered care in many health care facilities across the state. Our care is safe, compassionate and evidence based. Prescribing authority is an essential component of our role. In primary care, our role is very similar to our colleagues, physicians and physician assistants, who manage case loads similar to ours in team based primary care medical homes. Even though the work is equal, the reimbursement is not!

In some fee for service and Medicaid markets, nurse practitioners are reimbursed at rates at 75 – 85% of the reimbursement rate for physicians. In many practices this necessitates, billing under physicians' NPI numbers, just to make ends meet. It often means the patient has to be seen twice for the same primary care issue, just for the practice to "make ends meet".

We all know the struggles, trying to obtain appointments in our primary care offices. Why limit patient access by not reimbursing providers for the work they do every day.

Please support H 8135.

We urge support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Denise Coppa
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