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From: Ashley Wright <alynnwright89@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 4:21 PM
To: Rep. Fogarty, Kathleen A.; House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: Concern with h7721

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Dear Legislators,

I am writing to share a concern regarding H7721. As an NP, I support most of the bill overall and appreciate the work that has gone into it.

My concern is with **Section 23-106-2(a)(2)-(3)**, which requires that directors and officers of a medical practice be licensed to practice medicine. As written, this provision **excludes Nurse Practitioners from serving as medical directors**, even though NPs already provide clinical leadership in many Rhode Island practices.

Additionally, **Section 23-106-1(a)** Makes it unlawful for any entity *without proper licensure* to own a medical practice or employ healthcare licensees. This big-picture ban could limit innovative practice arrangements (e.g., MSOs) that help practices remain viable and provide expanded access – potentially affecting NP-led clinics indirectly.

Together, these requirements:

- *Elevate physician-only leadership* structures, which could sideline qualified non-physician leaders.
- *Restrict commonly used organizational arrangements* (like MSOs or hybrid practice structures).
- May unintentionally reduce clinic flexibility, especially in underserved or rural areas where Nurse Practitioners often lead or co-lead service delivery.

Limiting NPs in this way could have **unintended consequences**: fewer leadership options for practices, slower expansion of services, and added strain on an already stretched healthcare system. I do not believe this is the goal of the bill, but it may be the result. This would close down numerous NP run primary care offices, as NPs serve as medical directors, as we have full independent practice in RI.

I respectfully urge you to consider revising this provision so that qualified Nurse Practitioners can continue to serve as medical directors, while preserving the rest of the bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ashley Wright