



Testimony of Matthew Netto, AARP Rhode Island
In support of House Bill 7273
House Health and Human Services Committee
April 14, 2026

Chairwoman Donovan and members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

AARP is a nonpartisan, social mission organization with 38 million members nationwide and nearly 125,000 members here in Rhode Island. We advocate on behalf of issues that impact older adults, and we appreciate the opportunity to offer our support for requiring the state to implement the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, as Representative Hopkins's House Bill 7273 does.

The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) creates an efficient way for physicians who are licensed in one state to obtain licenses to practice in multiple states. Since its creation in 2017, more than 100,000 new medical licenses have been issued through the compact nationwide. Rhode Island passed IMLC legislation in 2022, but implementation has been delayed, making it impossible for our state's physicians to join the Compact and receive their license in other states.

AARP Rhode Island urges you to pass H 7273 so Rhode Island can quickly implement the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. By making it easier for licensed physicians to practice in multiple states, the IMLC is a way to mitigate provider shortages, ensure continuity of care, and improve access to quality healthcare, particularly in rural and medically underserved communities. Compacts like the IMLC also promote the use of telemedicine, allowing physicians to provide care to patients in other states more easily. This can be especially helpful and provide continuity of care for older adults who spend a significant amount of time traveling out of state or who live elsewhere for part of the year.

More than 25% of Rhode Islanders are now over the age of 60, and it is critical for our growing older adult population to have adequate access to medical providers. Four in five older adults say the U.S. health care system is not prepared for the growing and changing needs of America's aging population, and while implementing the IMLC will not solve all our problems with healthcare access, it will benefit both healthcare professionals and patients. Interstate licensure compacts for healthcare providers, including the IMLC, have myriad benefits including:

- Physicians who live near state lines have more flexibility about where they provide care and can more easily cross state lines and provide lifesaving care during times of emergency. This is especially sensible in a small state like Rhode Island, where you are never far from the state line.
- Licensing boards can more easily share investigations and disciplinary information about providers. This makes it easier for us to identify providers who have been subject to complaints in other states.



- Older adults and people of all ages can have improved access to specialty care providers who may need to work across state lines.
- By streamlining the licensure process, licensure compacts reduce the time and cost associated with obtaining multiple licenses, saving healthcare providers months of waiting and significant administrative fees.

We urge you to take immediate action and pass H 7273. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Netto".

Matthew Netto
Associate State Director-AARP Rhode Island