



To: House Committee on Health & Human Services
From: Care New England Health System
Date: April 14, 2026
Subject: CNE Support for H 7273 — An Act Relating To Businesses And Professions -- Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

Dear Chairwoman Donovan and members of the Committee,

Care New England (CNE) Health System is a trusted, integrated health care organization that fuels the latest advances in medical research, attracts the nation's top specialty-trained doctors, features nationally recognized services and cutting-edge programs, and engages in the important discussions people need to have about their health. CNE is helping to transform the future of health care, providing a leading voice in the ongoing effort to ensure the health of the individuals and communities we serve. With over 8,000 employees throughout Rhode Island, we are the fourth-largest employer and second-largest health system in the Ocean State.

CNE wants to thank Rep. Hopkins and the cosponsors of this bill because adopting and fully implementing the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) would strengthen Rhode Island's health care workforce by making it easier for qualified physicians to obtain licensure and practice across state lines. This is particularly important at a time where access to specialty care and timely appointments often depends on regional collaboration and telehealth.

The IMLC preserves the state's authority to regulate physicians while reducing unnecessary administrative barriers that delay recruitment and patient access. With the legislation already enacted, timely rulemaking by the Department of Health and the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner is the necessary final step to realize the workforce, access, and patient care benefits the General Assembly intended.

CNE supports H 7273 and is eager to be a partner with the State when the IMLC is operational.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Wagner, MD

Care New England Health System