



# RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

Chairperson Susan Donovan  
House Health & Human Services Committee  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Support with Revisions – H 7741

April 14, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS), I write in support of H7741.

This legislation reflects the reality of how care is delivered today and supports both Rhode Island physicians and patients. Patients do not always remain within state lines — they travel, attend school, or spend part of the year elsewhere — and their medical care should not be interrupted as a result. This bill allows Rhode Island physicians to continue caring for their patients when they are temporarily out of state, while also allowing Rhode Island patients to maintain relationships with out-of-state physicians who are already involved in their care.

Importantly, this legislation is grounded in continuity of care. It is not intended to expand access to episodic or stand-alone telemedicine services, but rather to preserve existing patient-provider relationships. These are patients who have been seen in person and whose history, medications, and conditions are already known to the provider.

Following discussions with the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline, RIMS recommends clarifying that this framework applies to patients who have been seen in person within the previous twelve (12) months, ensuring that the relationship reflects active, ongoing clinical care.

RIMS has also worked to incorporate additional safeguards to strengthen accountability and patient protection. These include clarifying that physicians providing telemedicine services must cooperate with all regulatory and judicial proceedings, including subpoenas and requests to appear, and that failure to do so would nullify any exception provided under this section.

In addition, RIMS supports language to ensure that this legislation cannot be used to establish a telemedicine-only practice model that circumvents Rhode Island licensure requirements. The intent of this bill is to support continuity of care — not to allow a physician to provide the majority of their services into the state without appropriate oversight.

At the same time, it is important to maintain access to behavioral health services. RIMS supports a narrowly tailored approach that would allow the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline to establish a limited registration process for out-of-state physicians providing behavioral health services to a small number of patients who are temporarily located in Rhode Island. This approach enhances patient protection. In the absence of a framework like this, patients may seek care through national telemedicine platforms that lack continuity and clinical context. H7741 instead supports care that is connected, accountable, and clinically appropriate.

RIMS looks forward to continuing to work with the Committee to refine this legislation and ensure it achieves these goals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nadine Himelfarb, MD  
President