



April 14, 2026

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan, Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services
State House
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H 7935 – An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions – Physician Assistants

Dear Chair Donovan:

Please accept this letter regarding H 7935, legislation that would increase continuing medical education requirements for physician assistants (PA), remove restrictions on PAs to render charitable care provided they have liability coverage, permit PAs to render aid under *The School and Youth Programs Concussion Act* and *The Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act*, and prohibit restrictive covenants and non-compete agreements for PAs. The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) would like to clarify that the bill would align continuing medical education requirements for PAs to their license cycle by changing the requirements from 25 hours annually to 50 hours biannually.

RIDOH recommends the following amendments:

- On page 5, line 4 – re: criminal background checks – In order to comply with the requirements of the PA Compact, clarify that the criminal history records check must be a federal fingerprint or biometric criminal background check. In addition, as RIDOH is introducing statutory language to effectuate the criminal background check requirement for the PA Compact (and other interstate healthcare professional license compacts), there may not be a need for additional regulations, so we request that the word *shall* be changed to the word *may* for the promulgation of rules and regulations to fulfill the criminal background check requirements.
- In Section 5-54-22 regarding CME requirements, the PA license cycle begins on July 1 and ends on June 30. Please change the language on page 5, lines 9-12 to the following:
 - “The biannual period for accumulation of continuing education hours commences on the **first day of July** and runs through the **last day of June beginning in 2025. Beginning with the biannual renewal period commencing the first day of July 2027...**”

RIDOH welcomes the opportunity to work with the sponsors of this legislation to refine RIDOH's proposed amendments. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome M. Larkin" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jerome M. Larkin, MD
Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services
The Honorable David A. Bennett
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy