



RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

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

H8327 – support with context

April 14, 2026

Dear Chair Donovan and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS), I write in support of H8327.

This legislation addresses a significant and growing challenge for primary care practices in Rhode Island — the increasing administrative burden associated with delivering care. Primary care physicians are expected to manage a substantial portion of coordination across the healthcare system, including referrals, prior authorizations, and communication with payers, much of which is uncompensated.

As outlined in the bill, these activities include referral coordination, documentation, and communication that are currently required by payers but not reimbursed. This work takes time away from patient care and places additional strain on already overextended practices.

At the same time, reimbursement for primary care has not kept pace with the cost of delivering care or the expectations placed on physicians. These combined pressures are contributing to a system where practices are struggling to remain viable and access to care is increasingly constrained.

H8327 is an important step toward addressing this imbalance by recognizing the value of this work and ensuring it is either reduced or appropriately compensated.

More broadly, this legislation highlights the need to address the underlying challenges facing primary care in Rhode Island. If we want to maintain and grow the primary care workforce, Rhode Island must be a place where physicians can sustainably practice medicine.

At the same time, it will be important to ensure that implementation of this bill does not simply shift costs within the system in a way that contributes to higher premiums for patients and employers. Thoughtful execution will be key to ensuring that reducing administrative burden leads to greater efficiency and improved access to care.

RIMS appreciates the Committee's attention to these issues and urges support for H8327 as part of a broader effort to strengthen primary care in Rhode Island.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nadine Himelfarb, MD
President