



May 28, 2026

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

RI Department of Health
Three Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5097

TTY: 771
www.health.ri.gov

RE: H 8545 – An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Rhode Island Program to Address Alzheimer’s Disease

Dear Chair Donovan:

Please accept this letter of support with amendments for H 8545, legislation that would amend the current law to include all licensed physician assistants, along with licensed physicians and nurses, who are required, each license renewal period, to complete a minimum of one hour of instruction on the diagnosis, treatment, and care of patients with cognitive impairments, including Alzheimer’s disease. RIDOH’s suggested amendments appear in green text.

23-1.7-5. Medical professional training. (a) All physicians licensed pursuant to chapter 37 of title 5, and nurses licensed pursuant to chapter 34 of title 5, ~~shall, no later than October 1, 2023, complete a one-time course of training consisting of~~ and physician assistants licensed pursuant to chapter 54 of title 5, shall complete, per renewal period, a minimum of one hour of instruction every other renewal cycle on the diagnosis, treatment, and care of patients with cognitive impairments including, but not limited to, Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders. Individuals providing care solely in pediatrics, radiology, and pathology may be exempt from the provisions of the required medical professional training through rules promulgated by the department.

The existing training requirement of every 2 years is more frequent than for any other continuing education topic for any of the professions involved, and it is the Boards that determine the topics each cycle. Also, RIDOH does not see a public health need for medical professional training on this topic for pediatricians, radiologists, and pathologists.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome M. Larkin" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jerome M. Larkin, MD
Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services
The Honorable Mia A. Ackerman
Danica Iocoi, Chief of Staff
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy