

May 5, 2026

Senate Finance Committee

State of Rhode Island General Assembly

82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02908

Dear Chairman DiPalma and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of S2806, which proposes requiring that healthcare insurers provide equivalent reimbursement to Advanced Practice Providers (APPs), such as Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and Physician Assistants (PAs), as physicians when they perform equivalent services.

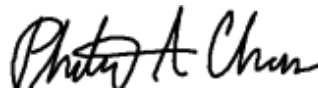
Rhode Island's primary care crisis continues to be among the greatest public health challenges facing our state. Approximately 200,000-300,000 Rhode Islanders are currently without a Primary Care Provider (PCP),¹ and the state needs between 300-400 new providers to close the gap in our system.² By providing reimbursement rates to APPs that are equivalent to physicians', we can close an equity gap by mandating equal pay for equal services. This legislation will help incentivize APPs to choose Rhode Island for their employment,³ helping to reduce our gap in primary care services. Some evidence shows that can help reduce the PCP physician shortage by up to 70%.⁴

By creating an environment where APPs can help improve primary care capacity, we can address some of the most pressing needs of our healthcare system. We believe this legislation is an important step to bolster APP compensation and combat the primary care crisis. It has our strongest support.

Sincerely,



Dr. Amy Nunn
Chief Executive Officer
Rhode Island Public Health Institute



Dr. Philip Chan, MD
Chief Medical Officer
Rhode Island Public Health Institute



Max Erbe, MPH
Programs and Research Director
Rhode Island Public Health Institute

References

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3. <https://www.nursing.upenn.edu/live/news/1961-advocating-reimbursement-parity-for-nurse>
4. <https://chc.com/advanced-practice-providers-bridge-rural-healthcare-access-gap/>