



**BROWN MEDICINE**  
BROWN PHYSICIANS, INC.

March 3, 2026

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Eric Kerns. I am a nephrologist in Providence, and I have worked for over ten years at Rhode Island Hospital, Miriam Hospital, and Kent Hospital as an employee of Brown Physicians and more recently Brown University Health.

I am writing in SUPPORT of Senate Bill S. 2459. I feel it is extremely important for physicians and medical organizations to remain independent from the pressures of for-profit companies and private equity firms. I have seen firsthand how outside influence can affect physician workload and compromise the amount of time that health care providers have to meet with patients and coordinate care. A couple of years ago, two private nephrology practices in Providence were bought out by a private equity firm called Panoramic Health. Since that time, at least three of the nephrologists who worked in those practices have left, and many others have complained to me about the new clinic structure and the lack of control they have over scheduling, patient care, and clinic finances. In this case, corporate ownership of previously physician-run practices led to physician burnout and turnover, and I do not see how any of this is beneficial to the patients who these practices serve.

Sincerely,

Eric Kerns MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine and Attending Physician  
Brown Medical School and Brown University Health

[www.brownphysicians.org](http://www.brownphysicians.org)

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