

March 31, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Murray
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chair Murray and Members of the Committee:

Please accept my letter of support for Senate Bill 2862, which would create a limited license pathway for foreign-trained dentists and dental hygienists to provide care in dental safety-net settings, including community health centers.

I am a foreign-trained dentist, and I finished my advanced standing education at BU in 2004. I was able to receive my DMD degree and have been practicing at a community health center in RI since 2004.

In my class of 67 foreign-trained dentists, I was classmates with other dentists from different countries. Many of them had years of experience and knowledge and excellent skills, but in order to practice in the US, they all had to attend the advanced standing program. To this date, I appreciate and cherish my training and education at BU; however, I believe the cost of such education has made it very difficult for many foreign-trained dentists to achieve their degree, and yet we fall short of providing dental care, particularly to Medicaid-enrolled adults, due to the shortage of dentists.

I support the limited-license pathway for choosing talented and qualified dentists to join the workforce. I think the shortage of dental providers throughout the state is evident, and action is needed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Maryam Rayani, DMD