



Date: 3/30/2026

The Honorable Melissa Murray
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903
Sen-murray@rilegislature.gov

Re: Support for Senate Bill [No. 2862](#)

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Oral Health Coalition, I am writing in support of Senate Bill No. 2862, which would allow foreign-trained dentists and dental hygienists to obtain limited licenses in Rhode Island under defined conditions.

This legislation represents an important and timely step toward addressing persistent oral health workforce shortages across our state. Many Rhode Islanders, particularly those in underserved, rural, and low-income communities, continue to face significant barriers to accessing timely and culturally competent oral healthcare. By creating a pathway for qualified, foreign-trained dental professionals to practice under supervision, this bill helps expand the workforce while maintaining patient safety and professional standards.

Senate Bill 2862 ensures that participating professionals meet rigorous criteria, including graduation from reputable dental institutions, successful completion of a board-approved examination, and practice under the supervision of a licensed dentist. These safeguards strike an appropriate balance between increasing access to care and upholding the high standards expected within Rhode Island's dental profession.

For these reasons, the Rhode Island Oral Health Coalition supports Senate Bill No. 2862 and respectfully urges the Senate Health and Human Services Committee to advance this important legislation.

Thank you for your consideration and continued leadership on issues that impact the health and well-being of Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

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