



RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

Chairperson Melissa Murray
Senate Health & Human Services
Rhode Island House of Representatives
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

S2879 - Support

May 5, 2026

Dear Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS), I write in support of S2879.

This legislation reflects the broader challenges facing primary care in Rhode Island. Practices are under increasing strain due to administrative burden, particularly from insurer requirements such as prior authorization, documentation, and care coordination, while reimbursement has not kept pace with the cost of delivering care.

Primary care physicians are expected to manage a growing share of system-wide coordination, often without compensation for that work. As a result, practices are being forced to make difficult decisions that impact access, including reducing patient panels, limiting services, or closing altogether.

S2879 is one example of how practices are attempting to respond to these pressures. While not a comprehensive solution, it underscores the reality that physicians are seeking ways to sustain their practices and continue caring for patients in an increasingly challenging environment.

RIMS recognizes the concerns related to access and equity and agrees that any approach should be implemented thoughtfully. At the same time, the underlying issues driving proposals like this must be addressed to prevent further erosion of primary care capacity.

More broadly, Rhode Island must be a place where physicians can sustainably practice. Reducing administrative burden, improving reimbursement, and supporting viable care models remain essential to maintaining access for patients.

RIMS appreciates the Committee's attention to these issues as part of a broader effort to stabilize primary care in Rhode Island.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nadine Himelfarb, MD
President