



Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Senators, Murray and Lauria
Slegislation@rilegislature.gov
March 23, 2026
RE: Testimony in support of Senate Bill 3057

Dear Chairs Murray and Lauria:

As background for our support of S 3057, nurse practitioners in Rhode Island worked for and sustain full practice authority in statute, allowing us to provide comprehensive and continuous patient centered care in many health care facilities across the state. Our care is safe, compassionate and evidence based. Prescribing authority is an essential component of our role. In primary care, our role is very similar to our colleagues, physicians and physician assistants, who manage case loads similar to ours in team based primary care medical homes. The establishment of a **Legislative commission to make a comprehensive study of RI's healthcare workforce related to primary care is long overdue.**

There is a high level of variability in the way the primary care is legislated and delivered in Rhode Island amongst a large contingent of primary care facilities. Much of this is due to the fact that there is little state oversight of a comprehensive data-driven examination of the primary care workforce.

Primary care is the foundation of a comprehensive, continuous health care delivery system that includes care across the lifespan. Good primary care services should be accessible to all population groups including: the aging population, those with multiple chronic illnesses and other disparities such as people in rural, underserved and other disenfranchised patients.

A commission dedicated to these areas would provide the opportunity to bring together principal representatives of all primary care provider groups, including nurse practitioners, physicians and physician assistants. It would allow policy makers to examine factors affecting recruitment, retention, scope of practice, reimbursement and education of these providers. It would also establish means by which workforce development programs, support of team based care models and barriers to practice could be systematically examined, with suggestions for solutions.

Rhode island is a leader in innovative health care policies. This commission would assure that the primary health care workforce would be supported, leading to better and more effective access to care for all Rhode Island residents.

Please support S 3057.

Sincerely,

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