



RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

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

Support – S 3063

March 24, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS), I am writing in support of S 3063 the proposal to establish a Medical Malpractice Commission.

Rhode Island's medical liability environment has been a longstanding concern for physicians across specialties. Despite years of discussion, there have been limited meaningful changes, and in many respects, the challenges have grown. This environment continues to impact the recruitment and retention of physicians in our state and contributes to uncertainty in the practice of medicine.

We all share the goal of ensuring patients are treated fairly and that there is accountability when something goes wrong. At the same time, it is important to ensure that the system is balanced, predictable, and supports timely resolution of cases.

One area of concern is the length of time it can take for cases to be resolved. Rhode Island's prejudgment interest rates—among the highest in the country—can create incentives that prolong cases, affecting both patients awaiting resolution and physicians practicing under extended uncertainty.

The establishment of a Medical Malpractice Commission provides an important opportunity to bring together stakeholders, examine the current system in a comprehensive way, and identify thoughtful, data-driven approaches to improvement. These issues are complex and require a collaborative and deliberate process.

RIMS supports this effort and appreciates the opportunity to have representation on the commission. Including practicing physicians in this work will be essential to ensuring that recommendations are grounded in real-world experience and support both patient care and the sustainability of medical practice in Rhode Island.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nadine Himelfarb, MD
President