



Department of Health
Three Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5097

TTY: 771
www.health.ri.gov

March 7, 2024

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr., Chair
House Committee on Corporations
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H 7350 – An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions – Social Work Licensure Compact

Dear Chair Solomon:

Please accept this letter on H 7350, legislation that would adopt model legislation facilitating the interstate practice of regulated social workers. This act would take effect upon passage.

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) is currently reviewing this proposal at the programmatic level and is seeking input from the associated board to carefully analyze the impact that joining this compact would have on the initial licensure and disciplinary processes and current licensure requirements.

RIDOH has long supported licensure compacts as a vehicle to increase the accessibility of healthcare services from a larger and more diverse pool of practitioners and streamline the licensure process for appropriately trained and credentialed professionals. However, RIDOH must fully analyze compact requirements including licensure requirements, disciplinary complaints, and fiscal impact to implement the compact.

In addition, Rhode Island only licenses social workers with master's and doctoral degrees. The Social Work Licensure Compact recognizes a bachelor's level social work license and RIDOH is uncertain if our licensure would need to expand to include a bachelor's license under the compact.

We look forward to working with the Committee, our Social Work Board, and the Social Work Licensure Compact administration to learn more about this compact's requirements and potential benefits to regulated professionals and patients here in Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Utpala Bandy" followed by a flourish and the word "for" written in a smaller, cursive script.

Utpala Bandy, MD, MPH
Interim Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Corporations
The Honorable Justine A. Caldwell
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy
