



**RHODE ISLAND ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS**
STRONG MEDICINE FOR RHODE ISLAND

Honorable Chair Donovan of the
House Committee on Health & Human Services
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for H7446 – Relating to Business and Professions – Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

February 13, 2024

Dear Chair Donovan and Members of the Health & Human Services Committee,

I write to you on behalf of the Rhode Island Academy of Family Physicians (RIAFP) **in support of H7446**, which would bring about the implementation of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact by July 1, 2024.

As family medicine physicians there are many reasons why it would be valuable to see the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) implemented as soon as possible.

There is a physician shortage in the United States and this is only predicted to worsen. Patients are increasingly traveling longer distances to see primary care physicians and specialists, which creates barriers to care that disproportionately affect Rhode Islanders who are socioeconomically disadvantaged. Introducing the IMLC would help alleviate these burdens by making telehealth more readily available between Rhode Island and neighboring states. Implementing the IMLC would also mean that physicians would more appropriately be compensated for their time caring for patients who live out of state, because it would facilitate greater opportunities for formal telehealth visits when a patient can't make it to the office, rather than providing important patient check-ins without compensation.

We appreciate your consideration and again voice our support for H7446.

Sincerely,

Katharina de Klerk, DO
RIAFP Advocacy Committee Chair