



March 12, 2024

Honorable Susan R. Donovan
Chair, House Health and Human Services Committee
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H-7826- Relating to Businesses and Professions -- Nurses

Dear Chair Donovan and Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

Please accept the Rhode Island Health Center Association's letter in support of House Bill 7826 that would amend the conditions upon which a nurse would be exempt from certain licensing requirements, including eligibility to practice before taking and receiving results of the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

Rhode Island continues to face a shortage of nurses to meet the demands of the health care system. The ability to hire qualified nursing professionals is critical to the eight Community Health Center's capacity to provide primary care to over 200,000 Rhode Islanders. Timely primary care is essential for the prevention and early detection of disease, chronic disease management, and reducing emergency visits.

By supporting House Bill 7826, we can build on the progress made by the passing of the Nurse Licensure Compact. Safely expediting qualified nurses into the healthcare delivery systems can help address workforce shortages and increase access to care for all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

M. Campbell

Melissa Campbell
Policy Manager

Rhode Island Health Center Association members include:
Blackstone Valley Community Health Care Inc. ~ Comprehensive Community Action Program ~
East Bay Community Action Program ~ Providence Community Health Centers ~
Thundermist Health Center ~ Tri-County Community Action ~
WellOne Primary Medical and Dental Care ~ Wood River Health