



M. Teresa Paiva Weed  
President

March 26, 2024

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan  
House Health and Human Services Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: CONCERN - H. 7564

Dear Chair Donovan:

The Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) and its members appreciate the opportunity to comment on H.7564, an act which removes the exemption from licensure for certain nursing service agencies accredited by the joint commission.

The pandemic and its extended nature inflicted inordinate pressure on healthcare employees causing worker burnout, retirements and overall workforce shortages. Hospitals, like other providers, have responded to the workforce crisis by implementing workforce resiliency programs, providing monetary incentive and utilizing increased contract staffing.

Today hospitals still have thousands of healthcare worker vacancies which they are in competition with Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire to secure in order to ensure safe, quality care for Rhode Islanders. We are concerned that removing the current exemption for nurse service agencies could potentially dissuade their operation within Rhode Island. Such a move might handicap our hospitals, rendering them less competitive and consequently jeopardizing healthcare in our state.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with you to improve the health of all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Tomasso", written over a horizontal line.

Lisa P. Tomasso  
Senior Vice President

Hospital Association of Rhode Island

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