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May 30, 2024

The Honorable Susan Donovan  
Chair, Committee on Health and Human Services  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
82 Smith Street, Room 323  
Providence, RI 02903  
Delivered electronically

**RE: Support HB 8296 – Medical Spas Safety Act**

Dear Chairperson Donovan/Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

On behalf of the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association (ASDSA), representing 6,400+ dermatologic surgeons, I urge the House Health and Human Services Committee to support House Bill 8296, the *Medical Spa Safety Act*. The enactment of this legislation is an important step forward in the effort to ensure patient safety and proper oversight of care in medical spas in Rhode Island.

House Bill 8296 defines ‘cosmetic medical procedures’ to constitute the practice of medicine and surgery as a medical procedure or treatment which alters or reshapes normal structures of the body or ablates or removes living tissue to improve physical appearance and shall include, but are not limited to, injection of cosmetic filling agents, injection of neuromodulators, use of light or laser devices to affect the skin, hair or underlying soft tissue, chemical peels, injection of fat dissolving agents, sclerotherapy, and the use of any type of energy sources used to change the structure or function of the skin or underlying soft tissue. This is consistent with the American Medical Association and the American College of Surgeon definition.

With the growing public demand for cosmetic medical procedures, providing patients with properly trained, educated, and supervised medical personnel is a safeguard Rhode Island should have for its citizenry. This legislation ensures cosmetic medical procedures using ablative lasers or ablative energy devices, dermal fillers, platelet rich plasma injections, and any other energy source that involves the structure or function beyond the mid-epidermis (such as medium depth chemical peels or radiofrequency micro needling) are safely performed by licensed and qualified physicians or under the direct, on-site supervision of a licensed and qualified physician.

To best protect the citizens of Rhode Island and to ensure quality care, we urge you to support HB 8296. Should you have any questions please contact Kristin Hellquist, ASDSA Chief Advocacy Officer, at [khellquist@asds.net](mailto:khellquist@asds.net).

Sincerely,

Seth Matarasso, MD, President  
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association