



February 25, 2025

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan, Chairwoman  
House Health and Human Services Committee  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H.5168, An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Licensing of Healthcare Facilities

Dear Chairwoman Donovan,

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition are writing in opposition to House bill 5168, which proposes to link healthcare facility licensing with their transition to renewable energy sources.

As outlined in the bill, to maintain their licenses, healthcare facilities would be required to start transitioning to renewable energy sources by January 1, 2026. The Coalition believes this could create substantial unintended consequences for our healthcare system. While we support the transition to renewable energy and recognize its importance for environmental sustainability, we are concerned that attaching these requirements to healthcare facility licensing could place undue burdens on already stressed institutions.

Our health care system is already under significant strains with healthcare facilities, especially smaller hospitals and clinics, operating under financial constraints. Adding requirements for renewable energy infrastructure could result in significant upfront costs. These expenses may divert essential resources away from patient care and critical operations.

The additional financial strain from meeting these energy transition requirements may disproportionately affect healthcare facilities underserved communities. These institutions are often already struggling to provide basic services, and the cost of transitioning to renewable energy could lead to service cutbacks or even closure, reducing access to vital healthcare services for vulnerable populations.

Lastly, by linking the transition to the licensing of healthcare facilities, it is unclear what happens if facilities are not able to begin this transition by the January 1, 2026 deadline. In addition, the

The Rhode Island Business Coalition represents 50 industries and 6,280 businesses that employ 231,200 people throughout Rhode Island.

bill does not include any language for what happens if a facility cannot complete the transition by a certain time.

We recommend a more flexible approach that provides incentives for healthcare facilities to transition to renewable energy, without compromising patient care or access, and not tied to their licensing would be a better path forward.

Thank you for your consideration of our position on this issue. We ask the Committee not to support H.5168.

Sincerely,

East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce

Rhode Island Business Group on Health

Rhode Island Hospitality Association

Rhode Island Lumber and Building Materials Dealers Association

Rhode Island Manufacturers Association

Rhode Island Small Business Economic Summit Tax and Budget Committee

Rhode Island Staffing Association

cc. House Health and Human Services Committee members