



RI Department of Health
Three Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5097

TTY: 771
www.health.ri.gov

February 25, 2025

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services
State House
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

H 5168 – An Act Relation to Health and Safety – Licensing of Healthcare Facilities

Dear Chair Donovan:

Please accept this letter with concerns regarding H 5168, legislation that would require all State-licensed healthcare facilities to begin to convert the powering of their operations from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources. The Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation (DBR), in consultation with the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) and the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), would promulgate rules and regulations to implement the requirements.

RIDOH, which has authority over healthcare facility licensure, has concerns about the impact this proposal would have on healthcare facility operations and the establishment of a new condition of licensure of healthcare facilities by January 1, 2026. The establishment of such changes require comprehensive planning and discussion with impacted stakeholders including, but not limited to consumers, healthcare facilities, DBR, and OER to prevent any unintended consequences the bill may have on patient health and safety.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerome M. Larkin" followed by a flourish and the word "for".

Jerome M. Larkin, MD
Director

CC: The Honorable Jennifer Boylan
The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy