

Paige Chippendale RN, BSN
124A Johnson Rd
Foster, RI 02825
Paigechip98@gmail.com
401-489-1906
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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 5351 and its Senate Companion, the Medical Aesthetic Practices Safety Act, which ensures that medical professionals and aesthetic practitioners in Rhode Island can continue to practice and delegate within their full scope of expertise.

As a registered nurse myself with five years of experience in a high-paced medical-surgical unit, I have developed extensive clinical expertise while managing five patients at a time with complex medical needs. In my role as a charge nurse, preceptor, and clinical instructor for URI students, I have been responsible for training and mentoring future nurses while ensuring the highest level of patient care. My daily responsibilities include starting countless IVs, injecting countless IM/ Subcutaneous medications. Administering and managing Schedule II narcotics, monitoring chest tubes and tracheostomies, managing multiple IV medications, blood product administration, and caring for post-surgical and septic patients, the list goes on. These skills require a deep understanding of anatomy, patient safety, and critical decision-making—many of the same competencies utilized in medical aesthetics.

As the medical spa industry faces increasing restrictions on scope of practice, it is essential to recognize that nurses in aesthetics are extensively trained in facial anatomy, injection techniques, and patient safety, operating within a collaborative medical model that prioritizes patient well-being. Placing unnecessary limitations on these providers disregards the expertise they bring to the field and restricts patient access to safe and effective aesthetic treatments. I urge policymakers to support nurses and advanced providers in medical aesthetics by upholding their ability to practice within their full scope, ensuring that patients continue to receive high-quality, medically supervised aesthetic care.

I have dedicated my career to providing safe, high-quality aesthetic treatments that enhance my patients' confidence and well-being. Rhode Island's current regulatory restrictions are limiting patient access to trusted providers while simultaneously stifling professional growth in an industry that contributes significantly to our state's economy.

The Impact on Patient Care

The Rhode Island Department of Health's (RIDOH) proposed regulations threaten to disrupt the trusted relationships patients have with their aesthetic providers by:

- Forcing patients to discontinue services they have safely received from experienced, highly trained practitioners.

- Creating unnecessary barriers to treatments such as laser hair removal, tattoo removal, microneedling, radiofrequency, platelet-rich plasma, and other non-invasive medical aesthetic procedures.
- Pushing patients to seek care in neighboring states, increasing inconvenience and cost without any proven benefit to patient safety.

The Role of Medical Aesthetic Practitioners

As trained aesthetic practitioners, we already adhere to strict protocols, including:

- Conducting thorough patient assessments and consultations to ensure the best course of treatment.
- Maintaining high standards of safety, education, and proper delegation within our scope of practice.
- Identifying potential health concerns, such as suspicious skin lesions, and referring patients to appropriate specialists when needed.

The proposed restrictions do not enhance patient safety but instead limit access to qualified, capable providers, forcing patients into unnecessary hardship.

Support for Patient Rights and Industry Growth

Passing H-5352 will:

- Preserve patient choice—allowing individuals to continue receiving services from their trusted providers.
- Maintain safety and oversight by keeping care in the hands of trained medical professionals.
- Prevent economic loss by ensuring Rhode Island remains competitive in the growing field of medical aesthetics.
- Uphold the professional integrity of licensed nurses, PAs, NPs, dentists, and estheticians who have the expertise to provide these services safely.

As a licensed RN I take my duty to protect patient safety and autonomy seriously. I urge you to support House Bill 5352 to ensure Rhode Islanders can continue to receive safe, high-quality aesthetic care from trained professionals without unnecessary government overreach.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any opportunity to discuss this further and advocate for patient rights and professional integrity in aesthetic medicine.

Sincerely,

Paige Chippendale RN, BSN