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House Committee on Health and Human Services
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Subject: Support for Bill H5351 – Protecting Aesthetic Providers’ Scope of Practice

Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill H5351, which upholds the rights of aesthetic providers to work to the full extent of their training and scope of practice. As a long-time patient of Inspire Medical Spa and Wellness Center in Narragansett, I have received exceptional care from Nurse Practitioners who prioritize patient safety, well-being, and confidence. Unlike busy medical clinics, they take the time to listen, educate, and provide high-quality treatments without making patients feel rushed or pressured.

These highly skilled providers play a crucial role in supporting primary care and dermatology. In fact, it was my Nurse Practitioners who first identified a squamous cell carcinoma on my face and promptly referred me to a dermatologist, ensuring I received life-saving care. Now, they are using advanced treatments such as BBL, RFMN, PRP, and laser therapies to improve the appearance of my scar. Thanks to their expertise, my scar is healing beautifully, restoring not only my skin but also my confidence.

I was devastated to learn that these very procedures—proven safe and effective—can no longer be performed by my Nurse Practitioners due to recent restrictions imposed by the Rhode Island Department of Health. This is especially concerning given that our state made the progressive and necessary decision to grant Nurse Practitioners full practice authority to improve healthcare access. Why, then, would we now restrict their ability to provide medical aesthetic treatments that enhance patients’ quality of life?

Additionally, Registered Nurses play a vital role in this field. The Nurse Practitioner who founded Inspire Medical Spa originally started her career as an RN. Many RNs serve as educators, training NPs, PAs, and physicians in aesthetic medicine. It is clear that our Department of Health does not fully understand the medical aesthetics specialty or its

advancements in safety and technology. With today's cutting-edge lasers, devices, and techniques, the field is safer than ever.

As a patient, I deserve the right to choose my provider. I do not want to lose access to the skilled professionals who have helped me. Nor do I want to be forced to travel out of state to continue the treatment that has already made such a positive impact on my life.

I urge you to pass Bill H5351 and protect the rights of aesthetic providers in Rhode Island. Please do not take away our access to safe, effective, and patient-centered care.

Sincerely,

Peggy Furcolo