

Re: Support re: Bill H-5351

To the Rhode Island State Legislature,

My name is Tami Verduchi, and I am the mother-in-law of Lexi Revis, a highly dedicated and compassionate nurse. While Lexi's mother, Kimberly, passed away from brain cancer in 2014 and is unable to speak on behalf of her daughter, I am honored to step forward to advocate for her, as well as for the entire community of nurse injectors across Rhode Island.

I am writing in support of Bill H-5351, from both a personal perspective as Lexi's future mother-in-law and as a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW). Having observed Lexi's journey closely, I have witnessed her unwavering commitment to the aesthetic nursing field. She has invested an immense amount of time, money, and energy into perfecting her skills and expanding her expertise. In addition to her work, Lexi is currently pursuing her Master's degree to become a Family Nurse Practitioner, demonstrating her commitment to furthering her education and providing even more comprehensive care.

Prior to the current restrictions on aesthetic nursing, Lexi would often share her excitement about the work she was doing, specifically how fulfilling it was to help her patients achieve their desired outcomes. While out of respect for patient privacy and confidentiality, she always ensures that the details of her work remain appropriately protected, it was clear that she found great joy in the meaningful connections she made and the positive impact she had on her patients' lives. Since being unable to practice, I have watched her struggle with a sense of emptiness and loss, as this work was a source of fulfillment for her. While I am grateful she continues her studies, it is important to consider the emotional toll these restrictions have on those who have dedicated their careers to this specialty.

From a mental health perspective, as a therapist, I am deeply concerned about the broader impact these changes will have on the mental health and well-being of the nursing community. Stripping away a career that so many nurses and nurse practitioners have worked tirelessly to build could be devastating. It is vital to consider the emotional consequences for the many individuals who find purpose and joy in their work, as well as the impact on the communities they serve. Our nurses are the backbone of our healthcare system, and aesthetic treatments fall within the realm of services that they are more than qualified to administer safely and effectively.

I urge you to support Bill H-5351, and to stand behind the nurses of Rhode Island who are ready and capable to continue their vital work as nurse injectors.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Tami Verduchi, LCSW
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