



Howard Dulude
Interim President

March 27, 2025

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
Chairperson, House Committee on Health and Human Services
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: SUPPORT – H6036 (The Rhode Island Clinician Wellness and Support Act)

Dear Chair Donovan,

The Hospital Association of Rhode Island (HARI) and its member hospitals support H6036, introduced by Representative Edwards. This legislation aims to establish a confidential support program for nurse practitioners, similar to the existing Physician Health Program, and implement professional licensing and reporting reforms to protect clinicians who seek assistance.

The well-being of our healthcare professionals is vital to ensuring high-quality patient care. In Rhode Island, the healthcare workforce faces significant challenges, including high rates of burnout and mental health issues. A study published in the April 2024 RI Medical Journal highlighted that due to provider burnout, reductions in patient care hours, and retirements, access to primary care in Rhode Island is at risk of further erosion. Codifying a confidential resource for healthcare professionals to seek assistance without fear of professional repercussions is essential.

By enacting H6036, Rhode Island would take an important step toward safeguarding the health and well-being of its nurse practitioners and other healthcare professionals, thereby enhancing the overall quality of care provided to our communities.

For these reasons HARI and its members support passage of H.6036 and appreciate your commitment to the well-being of our community and your ongoing efforts to strengthen healthcare in Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Tomasso", written over a horizontal line.

Lisa P. Tomasso
Senior Vice President