



March 26, 2025

(Submitted via [HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov))

The Honorable Susan Donovan  
Chair, House Health and Human Services Committee  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: House Bill 6036- An Act Relating To Health And Safety- The Rhode Island Clinician Wellness And Support Act

Dear Chair Donovan and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Health Center Association, please accept this letter of **support** for **House Bill 6036**, which seeks to support clinician well-being through licensing reform and other measures.

Rhode Island's eight Community Health Centers are instrumental in providing primary care to over 210,000 individuals, regardless of their ability to pay. With a dedicated team of over 250 clinicians, including physicians, pediatricians, nurse practitioners, and dentists, these centers are committed to providing accessible and comprehensive health services to all.

Assessing whether a clinical licensing applicant has any current health conditions is crucial for safeguarding patient safety. Inquiries about past mental health conditions are not reliable for assessing an applicant's current ability to practice medicine. In fact, it may deter a clinician from seeking care.

House Bill 6036 aims to:

- Recognize the Physician Health Program (PHP) and establish the Nurse Practitioner Health Program (NPHP) as confidential resources for health care professionals seeking support.
- Ensure confidentiality and safety protections for clinicians who seek assistance from the PHP and NPHP.
- Revise licensing and renewal applications, including eliminating broad questions regarding past mental health diagnoses and treatments.

Currently, 29 state licensing boards have revised their applications to remove language that stigmatizes mental health conditions. By focusing on present capabilities, we can uphold the highest standards in health care while also ensuring the health and well-being of those providing care.

Thank you for your consideration.

*M. Campbell*

Melissa Campbell  
Policy Manager  
Rhode Island Health Center Association

The Rhode Island Health Center Association members include:  
Blackstone Valley Community Health Care Inc. ~ Comprehensive Community Action Program  
East Bay Community Action Program ~ Providence Community Health Centers  
Thundermist Health Center ~ Tri-County Community Action Agency  
WellOne Primary Medical and Dental Care ~ Wood River Health