



RI Department of Health
Three Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5097

TTY: 771
www.health.ri.gov

February 27, 2025

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chair
House Committee on State Government and Elections
State House
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H 5085 – An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Administrative Procedures

Dear Chair Shanley:

Please accept this letter of opposition regarding H 5085, legislation that would require that all State agencies' final rules, promulgated under the *Administrative Procedures Act*, be approved by General Assembly action, but in no case later than December 31 of the year it is promulgated, before it can become effective.

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) is responsible for promulgating more than 100 regulations and is concerned about the impact this bill will have on the operation of the department and the healthcare system as a whole. Many regulations are needed to guide the conduct and standards of care within our healthcare system. These regulations many times require swift actions. RIDOH regulations cannot and should not be dependent upon General Assembly action.

The current Office of Regulatory Reform process is designed to offer strong requirements for ensuring maximum levels of public participation. As part of this process, members of the General Assembly are both invited and welcome to provide input on all proposed regulations. The current State-mandated process serves the public's interests well. We are happy to answer any questions the members of the Committee or the sponsors may have about the regulatory process from RIDOH's perspective. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerome M. Larkin", followed by a small "for" written below it.

Jerome M. Larkin, MD
Director

CC: The Honorable Arthur J. Corvese
The Honorable Members of the House State Government and Elections
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy

