



January 14, 2025

The Honorable Governor Daniel McKee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith St.
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Governor McKee:

I hope this letter finds you well. I wholeheartedly support your statement regarding primary health care reimbursement for primary care providers in your State of the State address. As a dedicated advocate for the improvement of healthcare in our state, I am writing to respectfully urge you to include nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs) in the ongoing conversations and decision-making processes regarding primary care services in addition to our physician colleagues, as mentioned in your State of the State address.

Primary care is the anchor of our healthcare system, ensuring that individuals and families receive timely, high quality, comprehensive, and preventive care. However, our state, like many others, is grappling with a shortage of primary care providers, which threatens access to these essential services. Addressing this challenge requires innovative and collaborative solutions—and NPs and PAs are critical to that solution.

NP's and PA's are highly educated, certified, and licensed healthcare professionals who deliver patient-centered care, diagnose and manage acute and chronic conditions, prescribe medications, and emphasize preventive care. Numerous studies have demonstrated that NPs and PAs provide care that is comparable in quality to that of physicians, with high levels of patient satisfaction.

Moreover, NPs and PAs often practice in medically underserved communities, ensuring access to care for populations who might otherwise go without. Their inclusion in primary care delivery can alleviate strain on the healthcare system, reduce wait times, and improve health outcomes for countless residents in Rhode Island.

As our state considers policies and initiatives to strengthen primary care, it is vital to leverage the expertise and insights of all healthcare providers. Including NPs and PAs in the conversation will foster a more holistic approach to addressing our healthcare challenges. It will also underscore our state's commitment to recognizing and utilizing the full potential of its healthcare workforce.

I respectfully request your leadership in ensuring that NP's and PA's are included in task forces, advisory committees, and other forums focused on primary care services. Their firsthand experience and unique perspectives will undoubtedly enrich the dialogue and contribute to more effective and equitable healthcare solutions.

<https://npari.enpnetwork.com>

FB: @NPARIpage

• NPARIgroup@gmail.com

• IG: @np_alliance_ri



Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued efforts to improve the health and well-being of our state's residents through budgetary allocation. I would be happy to provide additional information or facilitate discussions with representatives from the NP and PA communities at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Denise Coppa, PhD, APRN-CNP, FNP-C, FAAN
Legislative Liaison

401-533-8567



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• NPARIgroup@gmail.com
IG: @np_alliance_ri