Good Morning, Honorable Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr., Chairman of the Committee on Health, Hospitals and Human Services, other members of the 34th Legislature present, fellow testifiers, members of the press, the viewing and listening audiences; I am Dr. Luis O. Amaro, Interim Chief Executive Officer of Schneider Regional Medical Center (SRMC).

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on behalf of SRMC on the proposed Legislation, **BR 21-0241**, An Act to allow for the pronouncement of death by registered nurse, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners. I have had the opportunity to review the proposed language, along with SRMC's Medical Staff, and had no objections to the draft legislation.

We found its content consistent with other state laws that allow registered nurses, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners to perform death pronouncements. Furthermore, we understand this legislation aims to ensure that death pronouncements are done in a timely, compassionate manner, with dignity, respect, and concern for the deceased's family. Allowing registered nurses, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners to conduct death pronouncements as noted in this Bill will significantly improve our response time in death pronouncements.
Our commitment at SRMC is to provide safe, comprehensive, quality care to our patients, their families, and the Virgin Islands community as a whole. As a healthcare organization, Advanced Allied Health Practitioners are a crucial part of our team. We want to support any effort that allows them to practice at the fullest extent and within the measures of their training and expertise. We, therefore, support the advancement BR 21-0241.

Honorable Chairman Francis and members of the Committee on Health, Hospitals, and Human Services, thank you again for allowing us the opportunity to give testimony on this proposed legislation. I am prepared to take your questions.

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